

## Knife arch scanner used following Reagan's death

# SECURITY BEEFED UP

# AS BOXING RETURNS

Report by Luke Bartlett

**BEEFED-UP** security measures were in place as boxing returned to Walsall Town Hall for the first time since the death of teenager Reagan Asbury.

A knife arch airport-style scanner was set up to monitor all those who entered the venue for The Class of 2018 show.

Fan Dan Turner, from Oldbury, was one of the many who was at the tragic boxing match in October. And the 21-year-old admitted he was hesitant about attending Saturday night's show but was glad to see the new security in place. Mr Turner said: "It will deter people from bringing knives out with them. I was worried to start with but as soon as I saw the amount of security I felt fine."

Organiser BCB head of boxing Errol Johnson said security scanners had already been used at two of its other shows in Bilston.

### Memory

"We have used this venue for 18 years and done over 100 shows with no repercussions," he said. "It is only good, it only brings an extra safety. Hopefully it helps in the long term."

Ten bells rang out at the start of the event on Saturday in memory of 19-year-old Reagan.

Tyrone Andrew, also 19, of St Helen's Street, Derby, appeared at Birmingham Crown Court for a preliminary hearing in January and was set a provisional trial date of June 18 after being charged with murdering Reagan.

The teenager, from Pelsall, was allegedly attacked after violence broke out at a boxing event held at the town hall on October 14.

The mobile knife arch, a joint venture between Walsall Council and the police, will also now be used at various pubs and clubs around the borough.

Its introduction comes as the Chronicle's sister paper, the Express & Star's campaign to change the law on knife crime, has gained further support following a surge of violence, which has seen 21 stabbings since the start of the year, with five losing their lives. Go to [change.org/p/theresa-may-mp-knife-possession-should-have-stiffer-sentences](http://change.org/p/theresa-may-mp-knife-possession-should-have-stiffer-sentences)

● Pictures – Page 3

## TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT, AS ROD FANS IGNORE COLD



Do Ya Think I'm Sexy? – Rod Stewart fans join tribute singer Garry Pease on stage, as he performs at the Park Inn, Walsall

STOIC fans of Rod Stewart went Sailing through the last of what 'The Beast from the East' had to throw at them, in a bid to mark the 20th anniversary of their fan club.

Members of the Rod Stewart Fan Club persevered through snow and the ice to make it to the weekend event at The Park Inn, Walsall.

And despite a last-minute venue change organisers say it went down 'an absolute treat' – with Walsall-based Rod Stewart tribute act

Garry Pease wowing the hundreds that showed up.

Organiser Dave Reddy, aged 34, said: "Friday night because of the weather we had to change the venue at the 11th hour – we moved from The Bonser Suite in Walsall to The Park Inn. It kind of made for a better atmosphere even though we lost a few numbers we still had 200 on the Friday, around 200 on the Saturday and 120 on the Sunday. On Friday we had local band Gypsy Blood who

played old stuff such as Faces songs and then on Saturday we had a band called Cregan and Co.

"That is Rod's former musical director Jim Cregan's band and it went down an absolute treat." The event came in aid of The Tick Tock Club, to raise £10 million for Great Ormond Street Hospital. Organisers say Rod himself is always helping their cause by donating items to auction off – with his sister Mary also a massive supporter of the fan club.



Garry during the show

### POLICE

## Grandson in court over murder case

A MAN accused of murdering his 74-year-old Walsall grandmother has made his first appearance at court.

Greg Irvin, aged 25, was led into the dock in handcuffs at Wolverhampton Magistrates' Court on Monday morning.

Dressed in grey jogging bottoms and a grey T-shirt, and sporting a light brown beard, he displayed no emotion and spoke only to confirm his name, address and date of birth. Irvin, of Hill Park in Walsall Wood, is accused of stabbing his grandmother, Anne James, to death at her home in Doveridge Place, Highgate, on Wednesday, February 28. He was arrested the day after Mrs James's body was discovered.

A statement from Mrs James's family said: "We are all devastated at the loss of a loving wife, mum, grandma and great grandma. She was an amazing, generous, kind and much-loved part of our family – she will be very sadly missed."

Charity worker Mrs James was a 'beloved member' of St Luke's Church in Chucky. Reverend Emily Reynolds paid tribute to a 'caring' and 'compassionate' woman.

She said: "We give thanks for Anne's life and for all the good she did."

Unemployed Irvin was set to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court yesterday, Wednesday.

### BILLS

## 4.99pc council tax increase approved

COUNCIL tax will rise by almost five per cent across Walsall from April after the move was passed by councillors. Bosses said the 4.99pc increase was necessary to continue to fund services. Bills will go up by £78 a year on average.

The Labour and Liberal Democrats coalition that runs the council got the vote through at a full council meeting. The tax increase was opposed by opposition Conservative and UKIP members. Council leader Sean Coughlan said the decision reflected the reality facing the cash-strapped authority.

● Potholes – Page 2

## INSIDE CALLUM ROCKS UP FOR CHARITY



PAGE 5



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# £2.8m for potholes in huge roads boost



Councillor Sean Coughlan

A CASH injection of £2.8million will be put towards fixing potholes. The notorious pothole problem is set to be addressed to help make the roads safer for drivers and prevent damage to their vehicles while out and about.

It comes as Walsall Council agreed on the corporate budget plan earlier this week where councillors decided to increase council tax by 4.99 per cent from April.

Leader of the council Sean Coughlan said: "That is only a small part of our investment into roads. There is a lot more than that including the £60 million

for redevelopment of Junction 10 plus a £1.2m scheme for the Mellish Road roundabout."

The council has partnered with Highways England to make improvements to the congested Junction 10 on the M6 which links Wolverhampton and Walsall. But this is not expected to start for at least 18 months.

Improvements are also being made to one of the main routes into Walsall in a £1.2m scheme. This includes enhancements to the Mellish Road roundabout to reduce traffic onto one of Walsall's busiest junctions that links with Lich-

field Street. Plans have been proposed to build a new link road to bridge the two arms of the Lichfield Road in order to ease traffic off the roundabout.

The junction was originally designed and built around 40 years ago and traffic levels have since massively increased.

Work for this is expected to start in spring and be completed by summer. It is part of a £5.2m regeneration project called Walsall Town Access Package to improve travel in the area. It includes increasing the capacity at Bloxwich North Railway Station by adding more car parking spaces to ease congestion.

# After beating the big freeze – the big thaw

**HAVING survived the Beast from the East and Storm Emma, the big thaw hit Walsall hot on the heels of freezing blizzards, as floods caused further problems.**

But with temperatures now rising, large swathes of snow have been melting causing excess run off water.

On Monday, a spokesman for the Environment Agency said: "A combination of rain and melting snow could lead to some minor surface-water and river flooding in parts of the country today and tomorrow."

"We expect last week's snow and ice to thaw steadily, meaning rivers and streams are largely able to absorb the extra water without increasing flood risk, but we are monitoring conditions and are ready to support local authorities as they respond to surface-water flooding."

"Check if you're at risk of flooding from rivers and the sea and get the latest guidance by calling 0345 988 1188 or visiting [www.gov.uk/check-flood-risk](http://www.gov.uk/check-flood-risk)."

## Essential

The region was hit with freezing conditions in the past week with icy winds whipping up snow drifts and temperatures dipping below freezing.

There was also disruption to the water network. At one point, South Staffs Water asked residents to avoid using water if it was not essential. A spokesman for the water company said it is experiencing 'very high levels' of demand for water due to bursts pipes and leaks.

Some households in Walsall were experiencing water pressure problems, the borough's council said. The spokesman said residents will be able to make a 'real difference' and help ensure the water supply is maintained by using it resourcefully.

South Staffs Water is advising home owners who find a leak on their property to call 0800243352 or email [www.watersafe.org.uk](http://www.watersafe.org.uk).

Schools were closed on Friday and there was widespread disruption to the transport system. In sport, Wolves' clash with Reading at Molineux and Villa's home meeting with QPR were rescheduled for March 13, after both were called off in the interests of public safety.



It's easier to walk on the road for this woman in Bloxwich, with drifts making access to footpaths difficult



A girl throws a stick for her dog in the snow



Difficult driving conditions at The Crescent in Walsall

# Charlie 'fixes' facial scars after cancer

A SCARRED cancer survivor who couldn't afford plastic surgery has 'fixed' her own face for £150.

Charlie Battison, from Walsall, was left with a face full of scars after battling aggressive skin cancer.

The 38-year-old had a massive scar across her forehead, and another which caused her eyebrows to be permanently raised.

Charlie's confidence plummeted and after deciding to undergo plastic surgery, she was left devastated when she realised she couldn't afford the £1,000 fees.

But Charlie, who was training to be a hairdresser, decided to learn how to fix her own face and has now performed corrective Botox and micro-blading procedures on herself, costing just £150.

Charlie said: "I knew that I couldn't keep going with my face being wonky it was making me very depressed. My face looked very disfigured and out of place – I looked like a monster. So I decided to go to classes, get the materials, and fix my face on my own – because it was that or living with the scar."

Now fully qualified, Charlie has made it her mission to help others with similar problems, with her cosmetic company C B Beautiful – working part time within Expressions Salon, Walsall.



Charlie Battison

# Ramblers get ready for walks

ANOTHER weekend of walks is taking place with the Walsall group of the Ramblers. Firstly on Saturday, there will be a short walk of about four miles Blithfield Reservoir, near Rugeley.

The meeting point is the car park at Oak Park C P, in Lichfield Road, Walsall Wood at 9.30am. More information can be obtained from the walk leader on 01922 415012

Then on Sunday, they will be heading to Market Drayton for a nine-mile circular walk. 'Market Drayton Round' is a moderate walk on farmland, tow-paths and quiet lanes. Non-members are always welcome and can obtain more information from the walk leader on 01922 614389 or 01922 685271.

# Road closure for village gas works

DELAYS are expected as a village street is shut for gas main works.

Broad Lane in Pelsall was closed from Monday for over a week.

It will be shut 24 hours a day between Mill Road and Broad Way while gas mains are renewed. It is expected to reopen on March 16.

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# Abandoned vehicles cost thousands to clean up

NEW figures reveal that thousands of abandoned vehicles have been dumped on the roadside in the past six years across the region.

The Black Country and Staffordshire is becoming a scrapyard for abandoned vehicles with Dudley in particular seeing 4,399 abandoned over the past six years – including 515 which were removed or destroyed.

This has cost the local authority just under £35,000 since 2012. Last year, 936 were dumped while there were 1,148 the year before – an average of more than three each day.

Elsewhere in the Black Country, 3,063 were reported abandoned in Wolverhampton and 2,245 in Walsall. There were 629 reported dumped in Stafford and 254 in the Cannock Chase district.

Two separate prosecutions in January saw two men ordered to pay a total of more than £2,000 after abandoning cars in the Stafford borough. Both men were given £200 fixed penalty notices but were taken to court by the council when they were not paid.

In separate cases, Nigel Steed of Marbury Drive, Bilston, and William David Beech of Ravens Lane, Bignall End, Stoke-on-Trent, were each fined £770 and ordered to pay £272 in costs and victim surcharge by the court.

The figures were obtained through a Freedom of Information request by insurer Confused.com.

# Poundland shuts one in 10 shops

WILLENHALL-BASED discount chain Poundland closed one in 10 of its stores last year, reversing 27 years of non-stop growth.

In a trading update from its South African parent company, Steinhoff, it was revealed Poundland had shut 10 per cent of its more than 900 stores. By September it was down to 834 in the UK, Ireland and Spain.

It was paying the price for its troubled takeover of 99p Stores in 2015.

A six-month delay due to a competition watchdog probe left many of the stores in a poor state.

The cost of converting them to Poundland hit profits and subsequently the business was bought by South African retail giant Steinhoff for £610 million in 2016.

# Church hall boost

AN extension will be created at a church hall. Improvements will be made at St Mary of the Angels Church Hall on Whetsone Lane, Aldridge, after permission was granted by Walsall Council.

# HomeServe youngsters' driving ambition



The young employees with their vans

HOMESERVE has good reason to celebrate this week's National Apprenticeship Week with seven young recruits qualifying as engineers.

The seven apprentices have graduated as water supply pipe engineers and qualified plumbers having completed their two-year courses in just 14 months.

The 'Magnificent Seven' – Oliver John, Max Harrison, Harry Bloomfield, Joshua Corns, Josh Barfield, Jordan Harris and Tom Johnson – received the keys to their new Fiat vans at HomeServe's Walsall HQ

before setting out to tackle their first jobs. The new apprentices will now head out into the field, supporting customers across the West Midlands and beyond with the home assistance provider.

Having completed the NVQ courses, run in partnership with Walsall College, they will be able to complete jobs both inside and outside customers' properties.

Greg Reed, CEO HomeServe Membership, said: "I'm delighted to welcome our seven newly-qualified apprentices to the HomeServe family.

"To complete a two-year course in only 14 months is an incredible achievement.

"We're passionate about identifying and developing the very best talent in our industry and that means we are committed to apprentice schemes like this."

The new recruits will join HomeServe's national network of over 1,000 directly employed engineers and will work with their existing HomeServe mentors for the next few weeks as they get to grips with their new roles.

# Robberies and vehicle crime on rise in Walsall

**VIOLENT crime, burglary, robbery and vehicle crime have all increased at a higher rate in Walsall than in any other Black Country borough, a study has revealed.**

Overall, recorded crime rose from 18,337 in the borough in 2016 to 21,220 last year – an increase of 15.7 per cent. But the latest figures show large spikes in certain crimes – while other boroughs in the Black Country have not suffered so badly.

Palfrey Councillor Mohammad Nazir served as Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands from 2013 to 2015.

"This is a big, big concern – we must be doing more to stop the increases in crime and protect our communities," he said.

The figures show in Walsall the rate of robberies had gone up 29.1 per cent, burglaries 15.5 per cent and violent crime 19.2 per cent. Thefts of vehicles has gone up 30 per cent and theft from motor vehicles 24.7 per cent.

## Efficiencies

Councillor Nazir said: "We shouldn't be just saying it is the cuts, we need to be acting now with what we have got and getting better at fighting crime."

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said: "It is very concerning that crime is rising.

"Crime in the area is still below the national average, but that is of little comfort if you are a victim.

"That is why I am continuing to drive efficiencies, reduce bureaucracy to enable police to focus on what the public want them to – tackling crime."

Mr Jamieson said he recognised the large increase in vehicle crime.

He said: "I have ensured the police prioritise this crime, by tackling chop shops, focusing on the identification and targeting of premises used to dismantle stolen cars.

"I am also bringing together the police and manufacturers to work together to bring in measures to prevent vehicle crime."

## Knife arch first for hall boxing night



Boxing fans attending an event at Walsall Town Hall had to pass through a security scanner for the first time, in a move that organisers say 'only brings extra safety', in the wake of increasing knife crime in the area, as well as the death of 19-year-old Reagan Astbury (inset), last October, who lost his life outside the venue when an altercation broke out. BCB head of boxing Errol Johnson said: "I don't think it brings a negative light to the sport. We have already used a knife arch at two of our other shows since in Bilston but obviously because this is a council venue it is high profile – but we have used this venue for 18 years and done over 100 shows with no repercussions."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Cigarette butts man fined twice

A SMOKER has been fined twice in six weeks for dropping a cigarette end. George Coldicott, of Walsall, was spotted by council officers discarding a cigarette butt in a Cannock Chase park last June and accepted a £75 fixed penalty notice.

But six weeks later he was seen in a takeaway car park dropping another cigarette end. He pleaded guilty before Stafford magistrates and was fined £92 and ordered to pay costs and surcharge of £125.

Cannock councillor John Preece, said "We hope this incident is a stark reminder for people to take pride in the area they live or visit."

## Runners bring up tail with dog jog

THE annual bigdogjog to support retired police dogs is taking place next month. This year's event, organised by Staffordshire Police, is being held in memory of one of the force's former dog handlers Darren Aird.

A family fun event, participants can run or walk either one lap (5km) or two laps (10km) around Chasewater with or without a dog. Everyone who takes part will receive a special commemorative medal.

The event takes place on April 28. To sign up visit [staffsretiredpolicedogs.org](http://staffsretiredpolicedogs.org).

## Clinic joins with commerce group

A CLINIC in Walsall has become the latest member to join a chamber of commerce.

The Psychotherapy Clinic in Walsall which helps to treat anxiety, low mood and trauma, aims to provide its services across the whole of the Black Country. Emma Griffiths, director, said joining the Black Country Chamber of Commerce will allow the business to expand.

She said: "Mental health is so rife at the moment and we aim to offer over the next few years extra clinical days and flexibility."

## Choir rehearsals return at church

MIXED-VOICE choir, Bloxwich Community Chorus has announced that it will shortly resume rehearsals at St John's Methodist Church, Victoria Avenue, Bloxwich.

The group of around 40 singers performs a variety of pieces and meets at 7.30 every Friday. Anyone who enjoys singing is welcome, auditions are not necessary. Also, the group is seeking an accompanist on a permanent basis.

For more details, contact secretary, Marion Malaband, on 01922 458637.

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## COUNTY NEWS

### City firm ranked in workplace top 10

WOLVERHAMPTON-BASED Charter Court Financial Services has been ranked as one of the top 10 employers for the third year in a row in the Sunday Times 100 Best Companies to Work For list.

Charter Court, based at Broadlands, has grown since its launch in 2008 to employ more than 500 people.

Scores and ratings across a wide range of factors including leadership and fairness are based on the views of employees, and each year the questionnaires are revised and updated to reflect current concerns across UK workplaces to provide a detailed picture of working at a particular firm.

### Unhappy staff fuel job queries boost

APPLICATION rates for office professional posts soared by 83.7 per cent across Birmingham in January according to independent jobs website CV-Library.

Lee Biggins, founder of CV-Library, said: "Candidates are storming the job market like never before. As such, it's important that businesses in Birmingham are offering the full package."

The survey of 1,200 workers revealed half (50.3 per cent) of professionals in Birmingham are unhappy in their current roles. This job dissatisfaction could be one of the driving factors behind the hike in application rates.

### MP Margot to host apprentices fair

AN MP will host an apprenticeship fair alongside a jobcentre tomorrow, Friday.

Margot James will be at the Glasshouse College in Stourbridge as part of National Apprenticeship Week.

This event, between 5pm and 6.30pm, is part of the Stourbridge MP's Aspirations programme, which gives young people the chance to take part in workshops and networking fairs designed to help them realise their potential.

### Fewer drivers are caught using phones

THE number of drivers issued with fixed penalty notices for using a hand held mobile phone at the wheel has dropped by more than 40 per cent.

A Freedom of Information request revealed the number of FPNs issued for the offence fell from 87,051 in 2016 to 51,787 last year. Studies suggest that the drop is due to road safety campaigns and the doubling of the fine and points.

# Council-run centre rakes in £500k

WALSALL'S Saddlers Centre has made a profit of more than half a million pounds since controversially being bought by the borough council, bosses have revealed.

Council leader Sean Coughlan said the figure justified the authority's decision to buy the shopping centre last year, over which it received significant criticism.

Serious questions were asked about

whether spending £13 million on the centre was an appropriate use of taxpayers' money but the leader says money made can now be invested back into services. The sale, and subsequent revelation the Saddlers had made a £2.8 million loss in 2015/16, caused a storm at the council as opposition members demanded answers.

Councillor Coughlan said: "The rationale behind our purchase of the

centre was to benefit from the rental income on the units within the centre, but also to give ourselves a strong foothold in regenerating the retail offer in the town centre. I'm really pleased to confirm that we have been successful on both fronts.

"People will naturally be interested in the money side of things of course and I hope they'll be reassured that, in just the first seven months of our

ownership of the site, the forecasted revenue profit is £506,000, net of interest costs.

"This is the equivalent to half a per cent on the council tax. We can provide some really valued local services with that kind of money, which is the equivalent of around 20 street cleansing staff, filling approximately 10,000 potholes or waste collection for 15,000 households."

# Super Oscar battling back in cancer fight

By Megan Archer

**A BRAVE youngster from Wednesbury has been showing his superhero spirit in a gruelling cancer battle he has been fighting for nearly a third of his life.**

Spiderman fanatic Oscar Beardmore, aged three, was diagnosed with Rhabdomyosarcoma in June last year, a rare form of cancer that affects the soft tissue.

After undergoing chemotherapy for seven months, the superhero-obsessed youngster is now in Germany having proton beam therapy.

His family hope he can ring the End of Treatment Bell at Birmingham Children's Hospital when he returns home in April. Oscar is also desperate to start at Priory Primary School, which he was due to begin in September, where his classmates and teachers are waiting for him.

Mum Cheryl, aged 42, said: "Oscar is just a typical little boy, he loves cars, Lego and dinosaurs. He loves superheroes too - Spiderman is his hero. It's so sweet, he has a Hickman Line which goes into his chest for chemotherapy and he believes every time he has the medicine that he's going to develop super powers."

Oscar's difficult journey began when parents Mark and Cheryl first noticed a lump on the side of his head in April last year. They booked him in at the doctors and soon discovered he had cancer.

Cheryl, an office worker at Power Utilities Group in Walsall, added: "Oscar had to have 13 rounds of chemotherapy which started in early July and finished in January. And now he's having 28 sessions of proton therapy."

Oscar and his family will also be taking part in this year's Fun Family 5 for Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity on June 16, to raise money for Ward 15 Oncology, as they did last year. Visit justgiving.com/fundraising/oscarbeardmore to help the Beardmore family raise funds.



Oscar, Mark and Cheryl

## Meet the cast for Sweeney Todd show



Members of Walsall Operatic Society's cast for their production of Sweeney Todd set for Wolverhampton Grand

A DRAMA society is putting on its first show since being forced out of a previous theatre - which will be 'bigger and better than ever'.

Members of Walsall Operatic Society are going through their last rehearsals of the cut-throat musical, Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street, before they hit the stage at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from March 13 to 17. It will be the group's first performance at the theatre as they

previously performed at the Lichfield Garrick before the prices were hiked but they could no longer afford to stay there.

They have already sold 2,800 tickets for the show which they performed four years ago. There is a cast of around 50 actors and 20 behind-the-scenes crew which is bigger than last year and they also have a new producer, Tim Jones, who performed as Harry in the recent performance of Brassed Off.

Chairman of Walsall Operatic Society, Andrew Bird, said: "This performance will take it to the next level for us. Everything is bigger and better than ever. There is a bigger cast, orchestra, and stage set."

Each performance will take place at 7.30pm and on the last day it will also be on at 2.30pm.

Tickets can be bought at [www.grandtheatre.co.uk/whats-on/musicals/sweeney-todd](http://www.grandtheatre.co.uk/whats-on/musicals/sweeney-todd)

## Designing skills could bag school a £500 win

DO you attend a primary school in the Black Country or Staffordshire? Then your artistic talents are needed.

After 15 successful years our sister daily the Express & Star has again launched its popular Design an Ad competition. Register now and your school could win £500.

Every school taking part will be teamed up with a local business who advertises in the Express & Star and pupils will be tasked with creating an original advertisement for their designated company. Each company will pick its favourite design, which will then feature in an eight-page colour supplement in the paper.

### Note

From this shortlist, readers will vote for their favourite, and every pupil whose design is featured in the supplement will be invited to a special presentation ceremony at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre where they will be given a certificate and meet the other winners and their sponsors.

Every participating school will receive a £50 achievement award, plus the chance to win £500 if their advert is judged the winner.

Last year almost 1,000 children from across the region put crayon to paper and created some superb designs.

Places are limited and time is running out so register now. The deadline is Saturday. For details call 01902 319439.

To register go to <https://www.expressandstar.com/news/education/2018/02/13/design-an-ad-register-your-school-for-the-chance-to-win-500/>

## Mayor's special funeral service

A SPECIAL funeral service will be held for the Mayor of Wolverhampton, Elias Mattu, today, Thursday.

The city will say goodbye to the long-serving councillor, with the funeral service to be held at St Peter's Church from 11am.

Hundreds of mourners are expected to turn out for the funeral of the respected civic leader, who served as a councillor in Graiesley for 18 years. The service will be shown on big screens in St Peter's Square. The cortege will head to Danescourt Cemetery in Wergs. A memorial event will then be held at Aldersley Leisure Centre at 8pm. Tributes poured in for father-of-three Councillor Mattu, who died following a long illness aged 59.

He became the 159th Mayor of Wolverhampton last year.

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# Community funding for dementia help service

A NOT-FOR-PROFIT organisation in Walsall which supports people living with dementia has received a funding boost.

Mindful Gifts CIC, based in Darlaston, has received £1,680 from Heart of England Community Foundation to help cope with the running costs of its shop in Church Street.

The community cause not only sells gifts suitable for people with dementia but also runs a host of activities for residents, including those with the condition.

The shop aims to transport visitors back in time, featuring themed rooms including an old-fashioned living room, scullery, market and toy shop.

Funding from the Foundation, a specialist grant-making organisation which awards funding to projects across the West Midlands, will go towards heating costs at the shop.

Vicki Phipps, founder of Mindful Gifts CIC, said: "We specialise in dementia products and have grown to sell more than 250 items including everything from handmade gifts to assistive technology goods.

"We also deliver a range of activities including art, crafts and games and welcome visitors to relax and enjoy tea, coffee and cake and can be booked to host tea parties.

"The shop is run by a number of volunteers and is a real community asset."

Tina Costello, CEO of the Heart of England Community Foundation, said: "Mindful Gifts CIC is a wonderful community organisation.

"We look forward to hearing more about the shop continuing to go from strength to strength in the future."

Further information about Mindful Gifts CIC is available at <https://www.mindfulgifts.co.uk/>

# Patient safety a priority for chief

PATIENT safety is the main priority for Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust's new chief executive.

Richard Beeken, who started the role on Monday, joined from the University Hospitals of North West Midlands NHS Trust where he was chief operating officer, and has said he is 'committed' to Walsall.

Before that he has worked in Worcestershire, Dudley and Birmingham and a short period with NHS Improvement. Mr Beeken said: "The progress this trust has made since its 2015 CQC inspection has been excellent and I'm looking forward to getting out and about to meet our teams who are working hard to keep up the momentum of the improvements made so far."

# Couple's legacy is honoured by school



David Smith, with David and Angie Tonks

A SCHOOL science block has been renamed to honour two long-standing supporters in recognition of their 'lasting legacy'. The Governors of Blue Coat Church of England Academy in Walsall dedicated the building to David and Margaret Tonks.

They have been passionate supporters of both the Blue Coat Church of England Federation (Infant and Junior schools) and Blue Coat Church of England Academy for many years.

The couple were both teachers, with Mrs Tonks spending a number of years in the classroom at Blue

Coat Academy. She also served as the chairman of governors up until her death in October 2016.

Mr Tonks, who is fondly referred to as Mr Blue Coat, continues to serve as a governor. It is a role he has fulfilled for more than 30 years. Principal David Smith said: "Their knowledge and experience in education, coupled with their passion for the Blue Coat schools, have contributed to creating a lasting legacy for the children of all three Blue Coat schools."

The Tonks Building was dedicated to the couple during a short service

last Monday. It was conducted by the Rev Jim Trood, rector of St Matthew's Church in Walsall. The unveiling ceremony at the school in Birmingham Street was attended by existing and former staff as well as pupils. The Blue Coat Foundation is unique in Walsall, offering a Christian education for children from the age of three through to 19.

There will be a sixth form open day on March 8, from 4pm until 6pm. Students can apply at [bluecoat-academy.org/WP/b-c-a-content/uploads/2018/02/6thAppForm.pdf](http://bluecoat-academy.org/WP/b-c-a-content/uploads/2018/02/6thAppForm.pdf).

# Rocking role hope by Callum for fundraiser

WHEN his twin sisters and grandmother died in the space of a few years, it was a difficult time in Callum McCarthy's life.

But with the help of Walsall Bereavement Support Service the 15-year-old was able to stay strong given the tragic circumstances.

Now, years later, the student has organised a rock gig at the Robin 2 in Bilston to help the charity after it was hit by funding cuts.

Along with bandmates Alfie Johnston, aged 15, and Jack Rickards, 14, their metal group Requiem will be joined by several other bands for the evening of music on March 11.

Callum, who goes to Walsall Studio School, said: "After there was a funding cut at the bereavement services I felt like as they helped me when I was younger I wanted to give something back. They gave me counselling when I was younger. It was a difficult time in my life and they pretty much turned me into a completely different Callum."

## Releasing

His twin sisters Hope and Bethany were born prematurely in 2007 but sadly died shortly after, while his grandmother Margaret Hustin died in 2011 after a battle with cancer.

The group, who are changing their name from Hell's Gates and releasing their EP on the night, will donate all proceeds from ticket sales to the bereavement charities - as well as giving a pound from every CD sold.

Their music is inspired by metal and grunge bands including the likes of Pantera, Metallica and Soundgarden.

Callum added: "I've grown up and have been surrounded by music. As I went to secondary school all I wanted to do was play guitar.

"So then I started having lessons at school and we got a band together in Year 7 with Alfie and Jack but we've only just really started properly. We started off doing covers and have only recently started writing and recording our own stuff.

"There's a few other local bands playing as well called Not My Words, Tear It Down and



Callum McCarthy, centre, and band members Alfie Johnston and Jack Rickards with Elaine Bullen

Riding Light. There's no set figure but we're just hoping to raise as much as possible - every little helps. There's a little bit of butterflies at the moment but we're very excited."

Tickets for the show cost £5 for adults and children's tickets are £2. Family tickets are available for £12.

Elaine Bullen, head of services at Walsall Bereavement Support Service, thanked Callum and his friends for organising the charity gig.

"I think we started supporting him about five or so years ago," she said. "It's superb that the band are doing this.

"All areas of the charity have been affected by funding cuts and even though his support was some time ago he came knocking on the door looking to help out.

"For a young man at 15 to be having that sort of social conscience to give something back is just incredible."

"Losing someone can affect children in the same way it affects adults.

"If children and young people get supported at the right time it can prevent future mental health difficulties."

For ticket details and more information, go to [www.therobin.co.uk](http://www.therobin.co.uk).

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Workers in step to back charity

SUPERMARKET staff and customers in Walsall, are preparing to put their best foot forward for charity.

Shoppers will be encouraged by staff at Sainsbury's Reedswood superstore to pound the pavements to gain pounds in cash for Sport Relief.

This year people are being urged to join forces to walk one billion steps a day, every day, from March 17 to March 23. Counting steps will be done via the Sport Relief app and supermarket staff are determined to lead the way. Colleagues from stores across the UK will be working hard to raise money for the charity with a week of activities.

### Pug Dotty is back safe with owners

A DOG has been reunited with its owner after being stolen in a burglary.

Dotty the pug was taken after a home on Albutts Road in Brownhills was burgled on Tuesday. But owner Shell Harrison confirmed on Wednesday night that Dotty had been returned safe and well.

West Midlands Police is still appealing for information on the break-in where jewellery was also taken.

Kevin Pitt said: "If you have any information about the incident please call our 101, quoting the reference number 20WS/47131J/18."

### Swans found dead in country park

RSPCA bosses have urged dog walkers to keep their pets on a lead when around wildlife - after two swans were found dead at Chasewater Country Park, near Brownhills.

The two birds were discovered at the side of a lake in Chasewater Country Park last week, with bite marks on their body and necks.

RSPCA inspector Laura Baker said: "The injuries were consistent with being attacked by another animal, and we cannot rule out that they were caused by a dog. We are asking dog owners to act responsibly."

### Strong smell led to cannabis farm

A STRONG smell of cannabis led officers to discover two drugs farms.

West Midlands Police recovered a sack of cannabis after a routine stop check on a van in Kirkstall Crescent, Bloxwich, on Thursday. Two cannabis factories were discovered when properties were searched afterwards.

The driver of the van, a 35-year-old man, was arrested for possession with intent to supply. He has since been released under investigation.

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## IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



# Low marks for school that drops grading

A SCHOOL in London has decided that giving pupils tangible marks or grades for their work is too stressful, and can affect their mental health.

Instead, teachers at Putney High School will just give general comments about the standard of work. Headmistress Suzie Longstaff says: "Mental health and pupil wellbeing have to be central to everything we do."

Now mental health is a very serious issue, and one which is only belatedly starting to be given the recognition it deserves by the NHS. But I can't help but think that daft ideas such as this trivialise the subject, equating the real suffering of people with serious problems to kids feeling a bit upset by their school report.

It echoes the outcry from teachers when schools minister Nick Gibb recently suggested more tests for young children would be good for their long-term wellbeing. Not an easy argument, but doesn't he have a point? If kids are drilled in exam technique by the ages of seven or eight, surely it should be second nature by the time they reach their O-levels and A-levels? Perhaps what the teachers meant was preparing more kids for exams was not good for their own wellbeing.

Back at Putney High, staff say replacing tangible marks with comments will stop youngsters from competing with each other, and take away "bragging rights". From my memories of school, youngsters who bragged about exam marks got a very swift education in etiquette, but that's another matter.

The problem is, though that the real world is extremely competitive and at times brutal. If schools teach kids not to compete and not to fret about their exams, they are setting them up for a real shock when they leave school.

Because when they find themselves working for a living they will probably find their employers also engage in a bit of comment-based feedback. But probably not the type they will like to hear.

□ □ □

THAT said, I think if I were at school today I would be feeling extremely stressed about World Book Day. Now getting youngsters into reading is an excellent idea, and anything that makes that more fun – particularly for hard-to-reach pupils – is to be supported wholeheartedly.

The problem is, what grown-ups consider fun is not necessarily what children do. And I'm not convinced that ordering kids to dress up as story-book characters is enjoyable. In fact, I can't help but think that for the average schoolkid there can be few things more humiliating than dressing as Charlie Bucket.

## Cosying up to these six nations is really not for us



Diane Abbott – plenty of time to reflect on less ethical migration policies



Emma Chambers – when she suddenly found herself famous, it scared her



Captain Blackadder – as TV fans will know, Mboto Gorge was 'his battle'

# Do we really want to go the way of EU?

POETRY among the isobars. I loved one weather forecaster's turn of phrase on a chilly morning this week as the Beast from the East arrived: "A pestering of snow showers." Dylan Thomas would have been proud of that.

WHILE we Brits have been pretending to know the difference between "a customs union" and "the customs union," the European Union has been busy on the other side of the continent, cosying up to six nations which hope to join the Union by 2025. They are: Macedonia, Albania, Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo. This wild, unstable and religiously riven region used to be called the Powder Keg of Europe. As I have said right from the start of this Brexit business, it is not enough to look at where the UK is going. We should also be looking very carefully at where the European Union is going and ask, do we really want to go that way?

ONE obvious way to halt the sexual objectifying of women in drama is to get more female actors, directors and producers in the system. Or so you might think. In the Beeb's new thriller, Collateral, the star character is a woman, so are two executive producers, and above all so is the director, S J Clarkson. And yet the second episode included a gratuitous nude scene which added nothing to the plot and told us little about the character. It looked like nothing more than a skin-flick moment, designed to attract slandering male viewers. This was not feminism's proudest hour.

I HAD lunch with Emma Chambers back in 1995 just as fame found her. It was a BBC season launch in Birmingham. She had attended the same event the year before and no-one spoke

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



to her or even recognised her. And then at the end of 1994 came the Vicar of Dibley and Alice Tinker became the nation's favourite dimwit. "I hate my face," she told me. "I was convinced I didn't look right at auditions . . . sometimes you do wish you're Kate Moss." When she suddenly found herself famous, it scared her. "I began to start having little panic attacks and finding myself hiding behind the Ambrosia tins in Waitrose. People would point and look. One lady came over and asked if I really was as stupid as I was in Dibley. I told her of course I was." Emma Chambers, who has died terribly early at 53, was delightful company and one of the most modest actors I've ever met.

MORE whimsy in Endeavour (ITV). After last week's episode mentioned the Crossroads Motel, this week's made a passing reference to Mboto Gorge, one of the battle honours of the fictitious South Oxfordshire Light Infantry. As Blackadder fans will know, Mboto Gorge was the battle in which Captain Blackadder's troops, armed with rifles and machine guns, massacred a tribe of pygmies armed with fruit.

MASSACRES are always good for gun sales. After every atrocity in the States, local people buy guns to protect themselves. Following the Florida school shootings, there's an even bigger bonanza for the firearms industry. Donald Trump's government is considering issuing guns to selected school teachers. That's another one million guns to be purchased. And if

anyone thinks arming teachers is a good idea, let me relate the tale of an old soldier called Jim who did National Service in Cyprus and found himself caught up in a chase between military police and a wanted terrorist. An MP shoved a revolver into Jim's hands with the instructions: "If he comes out of that door, shoot him." Jim told me that within a few seconds he was so shaky, nauseous and sweaty-handed that he could barely hold the gun, let alone aim it. There is only one place where heroic loners kill the bad guy. The movies.

OUT for a brisk walk in the Beast from the East, I couldn't help noticing that not a single family group we encountered was using mobile phones. Instead, muffled against the Siberian blast, folk were chatting – just like families used to do. All the dazzling technology of tablets and smartphones is no use if you're wearing big thick mittens.

DIANE Abbott, a great believer in free movement of people, says her party will produce 'immigration policies that meet the test of being firmly located in Labour's values'. This is good news. But then Ms Abbott has had plenty of time to reflect on less ethical migration policies. Back in the 1970s she famously spent a romantic holiday with her boyfriend Jeremy Corbyn in communist East Germany. Why they chose that particular hell-hole (sorry, 'workers' paradise') for a tryst is anyone's guess but she will have seen first-hand a regime where border controls were based on fences and landmines and where anyone trying to flee was shot to death. Freedom of movement, comrades? Only if you can outrun the guard dogs.

## TALKING POINT



# Those two words that can speak volumes

Just two short words seem to be tripping up so many of us these days. Eight letters which could, as Diana Ross informed us, make this world a better place.

Thank you. That's all it takes. Thank you.

How many times have you held a door open or stepped aside to let someone past, only to be thanked with a muted grunt, nod or even nothing at all?

Yet it takes very little effort to simply thank someone for even the tiniest of gestures.

And it's not just a matter of face-to-face gratitude. When was the last time you wrote to express your appreciation of the service you have experienced in a restaurant, at a sporting event or while on holiday?

I know someone who goes to a summer music festival every year and afterwards without fail writes to the promoter to say how much they have enjoyed the entertainment, much of it performed for free.

Invariably the promoter replies to say that my friend's letter is the first non-business correspondence they have received that year and how much it means to the festival team and the musicians themselves.

Furthermore, some of the most heartfelt letters sent to newspapers are those, often handwritten, from people who have been in hospital and wish to thank the medical staff for their exemplary treatment.

So why do we find it so difficult to come out with those two simple words, particularly in this era of emails and social media?

Perhaps it's because after only a few years of the internet, we take far too much for granted, and instead find it far too easy to complain about, well, just about anything.

But going back to that door-holding scenario, I often imagine an exchange that would ensue if I was not thanked. It goes something like this:

Me - "You're welcome".

Other person - "I beg your pardon?".

Me - "Oh, I'm sorry, I thought you said 'Thank you'."

Other person - "I haven't got a clue what you're talking about".

Me - "Not to worry, have a good day".

Other person - "Weirdo!".

I ask you, is it worth it? Probably not but if we all kept those two short words to hand, maybe the world might be a less fraught place.

Will you give it a go? Thank you.  
STEVE PARLETT



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# Demographics of the referendum

WHILE he takes side swipes at George Soros and me, Trevor Howard's real enemy seems to be demographic fact.

It is a fact that the second-strongest demographic correlation in the Brexit referendum was age, with the young mainly Remainers and the old mainly voting Leave. Essentially Soros is right. I remarked to a much younger acquaintance that, since she was 40 years younger than me, a woman, and probably making wiser lifestyle choices than I did at her age, she would be living with the consequences of the referendum

## Horror of soldiers in PoW mps

THE letter from Robert Westworth brought back my own memories of the cinema in 1944/45.

A Pathé newsreel showed British soldiers who were walking skeletons, it showed soldiers kneeling down with their hands tied behind their backs and a target over their hearts, they were used as targets by their captors.

We were shown the camps where they lived, wooden huts each with 200 soldiers, swamped with sewage, ill fed to the point of starvation, subjected to appalling cruelty, thousands perished and many survivors died later from disease. They and their Commonwealth companions were being used as slaves by the Japanese to build a railway.

Name a holocaust camp, which incarcerated foreigners, several come to mind. Now name a Japanese slave labour camp, which incarcerated British soldiers, silence. Known many years ago as 'The forgotten Army'.

JOHN GREGORY  
Willenhall

half a century after I'm tucked up in Bloxwich cemetery. The strongest demographic correlation of all was level of education.

The demographics were quite accurately predicted before the vote. The mystery, I suppose, is why the hubristic David Cameron chose to call the referendum when many of those who were both young and highly educated were away from the university halls of residence where they were registered to vote.

ALAN T HARRISON  
Walsall

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

## NatWest closure due to falling numbers

IN June this year, a branch of NatWest in Bilston will be closed. Bilston has a large contingent of independent businesses and this will be a great loss and inconvenience to them.

One of the main reasons stated is a fall in the numbers using the branches, which was actually encouraged by the banks themselves in pointing people/businesses towards internet banking. Our account

is with NatWest and they inform us that it is to be transferred to the Wolverhampton city centre branch.

This entails a round trip of over 20 miles, plus finding a parking place within reasonable walking distance. The Bilston branch staff are friendly, helpful and very experienced and deserve better, as do the residents and businesses.

ALAN DAVIS  
Darlaston

## Elias, kind and strong

MY great friend Elias Matu and I worked together in Pennfields, Graiseley, when I was a community worker and he volunteered to help our community. He was a kind, strong and determined colleague who fought for the rights of our Asian community and to combat crime and poverty.

We learned together, worked together and enjoyed our time together. Elias and I both went into local politics to make our respective communities better places to live in. It was one of the proudest days in my life to share his inauguration as Wolverhampton's 159th Mayor last year.

Wolverhampton city will miss one of its greatest champions. Thoughts are with Asha and family. Elias will always be remembered as my true friend and for inspiring local people. Peace.

CLLR DOUG JAMES  
Walsall

## Harebrained surgeries bid

I WAS relieved to see that the plans to axe four surgeries and build an £8m health centre on the Jabez Cliff site had been abandoned.

Unfortunately the instigators of this harebrained scheme have not learned their lesson and are intending to repeat their folly by simply changing the site to one which they will see these surgeries moved from the centres of their catchment areas. The whole concept is worthless and the sooner it is forgotten the better will it be for everyone.

JOHN LESTER  
Walsall

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## Father David inducted as new priest

A NEW parish priest has been inducted to a church in Walsall. It was standing room only for the induction of Father David Doran as the new priest of St Peter's Roman Catholic Church in Bloxwich.

During the holy mass, Walsall Dean Father Malcolm Glaze on behalf of Archbishop Bernard Longley said: "I am mandated to inaugurate you as parish priest of Saint Peter's Catholic Church in Bloxwich in the archdiocese of Birmingham, with all the rights, duties and obligations attaching thereto. May the power of God, father, son and holy spirit support you and be with you in all your tasks."

The event was formally witnessed by Parish Representatives Angela Wyre and John Minister who signed the induction documents together with Walsall Dean Father Glaze.



Father Doran with Angela Wyre and John Minister.

Pic: Jozef Lopuszynski

## Morton fury at moves to close police station

**TORY MP Wendy Morton claims the region's crime commissioner has become 'detached from reality' over his 'reckless plan' to close Aldridge Police Station.**

The Anchor Road base is one of 24 across the West Midlands that Labour PCC David Jamieson wants to close to save £5 million.

Aldridge-Brownhills MP Mrs Morton has urged him to keep it open, claiming shutting down the station would hit public safety.

She has questioned Mr Jamieson's consultation strategy after it emerged a hotline for residents to raise concerns did not work.

The station's front desk closed in 2015. Since then it has been operating as an administration and training base. Mr Jamieson said closing it down will save £222,000. Mrs Morton said: "The decision to close Aldridge Police Station is shrouded in secrecy and lacks consultation."

The planned closure comes after Mr Jamieson raised the WMP council tax precept by £12-a-year to provide a £9.5m funding boost. Over the next 12

months the force is set to axe 78 frontline officers and spend an extra £10m on office staff.

"Crucial things like public safety and the needs of local communities and police officers on the beat are being overlooked. Sadly he appears to have become detached from reality," Mrs Morton said.

Mr Jamieson said a £145m cut to the police budget since 2010 had left him in the 'unenviable position' of having to choose between buildings and protecting officer numbers.

The final decision on the proposals will be made on March 22.

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## Cherie's miracle to inspire racers



Cherie Urmacher with husband Lee and son Flint

THIS Mother's Day marks a miracle milestone for a woman who overcame an ovarian tumour, a three-month coma and apparent infertility.

Cherie Urmacher, aged 37, and 10-week-old baby Flint are sharing their story on Mother's Day to launch the Race for Life 2018 series for Cancer Research UK, with events taking place in Walsall on May 13, in Wolverhampton on June 17 and Dudley on July 8. She will tell her amazing story on stage at Redditch Race for Life on June 10.

Cherie, who works as an insurance broker at Fiveways in Birmingham, was married to husband Lee Urmacher in 2014 in the knowledge they would probably never have a family due to cancer treatment.

At the age of only 22, Cherie, from Bromsgrove, was put into an induced coma for three months after suffering an unexplained brain swelling. Doctors discovered a massive tumour on her ovary. Cherie had to have four operations and six months of intensive chemotherapy. She has been in remission ever since. Thanks to IVF treatment, Cherie had a successful pregnancy last year and gave birth to baby Flint. To enter see [www.raceforlife.org](http://www.raceforlife.org) or call 0300 123 0770.

## Labels firm moves to a new HQ in £3m boost

A DIGITALLY-printed labels specialist has bought new premises double the size of its current home as part of a £3 million investment programme planned for this year.

Willenhall-based CS Labels announced its investment plan ahead of its appearance at the Packaging Innovations show which was held at the NEC last week.

CS, which produces self-adhesive labels, stand-up pouches and continuous film, has bought a 20,000 sq ft manufacturing facility at Unit 1, Steelpark Trading Estate, Wednesfield.

It will enable it to meet increased demand for its products and the investment will also improve productivity further. The new premises will be purpose designed to integrate the company's new workflow optimisation systems.

CS Labels will complete the move from its current premises on Willenhall Trading Estate, Midacre, in the early summer. The investment also includes the purchase of new machinery and the development of smart productivity solu-

### Report by John Corser

tions. It follows the appointment of Adam James as a board member and operations director in December.

Managing director Simon Smith said: "Due to ever-growing demand for digital print we have outgrown our existing unit."

"We will enjoy the increased capacity that is so dearly required now and have designed a new customer demonstration facility which will enable prospects and clients of all business sizes to truly appreciate the power of digital print in action."

Mr Smith also hinted that this wasn't the end of the story. "Further announcements are due to be made very shortly," he added.

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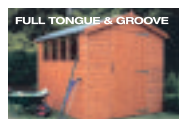
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# New powers sees camp moved to transit site

**NEW** powers were used for the first time in the West Midlands as Sandwell Council and police dealt quickly with a large unauthorised encampment.

Action by the council and police also means the encampment is now banned from returning to Sandwell for three months.

Twelve caravans got onto Vaughan Trading Estate, Tipton, overnight on Friday February 23.

Council and police officers went to the privately-owned site and the encampment moved on within a few hours.

The caravans then relocated to private land at Ridgacre industrial estate, off Ridgacre Road, West Bromwich.

The council worked with the landowner and the police, who instructed the encampment to use the transit site in Smethwick – where rent and a deposit must be paid for each caravan – or leave the borough.

Because the encampment refused to move, police issued a Section 62 notice – which gives police powers to

**By David Banner**

seize vehicles and caravans and make arrests – and the encampment then immediately left the borough.

This notice also bans this encampment from re-entering Sandwell for three months.

Councillor Paul Moore, Sandwell Council's cabinet member for regeneration, said: "This swift action by the council and police shows how effective our new arrangements are for dealing with unauthorised encampments."

Sandwell Council also has an injunction forbidding anyone from setting up an unauthorised encampment on 17 council-owned sites including parks, playing fields and open spaces.

## Bus driver is on right route for title victory



**John Cox, bus driver for Arriva, up for an award**

A BUS driver who transports passengers around Walsall has been nominated for an award.

John Cox, from Cannock, who has worked with Arriva for 13 years, has been shortlisted for the award after passengers across the country were asked to nominate their favourite bus driver. It recognises drivers' dedication and willingness to go the extra mile over the course of the last 12 months and is part of Arriva's annual Made a Difference Awards. He said: "I feel very honoured and humbled to have been shortlisted for the driver of the year award."

"For me, I'm just doing the job that I love, so it's nice to know that it's been recognised by others."

Dee Williams, campaigns director for Arriva, said: "It is essential that our drivers know their hard work and dedication to their jobs doesn't go unnoticed, from both the public and Arriva. We are delighted there were so many nominations."

The results will be announced at a gala dinner in April.



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# Runner Sue on track to highlight dementia

A KEEN runner from Pelsall, has embarked on a dementia-awareness campaign in preparation for the London Marathon and released a video about her exploits.

Sue Desborough, aged 56, is busy training for the race itself and has undertaken a Dementia Friends Champion course.

This allows her to deliver Dementia Friends sessions that serve to inform people about the effects of dementia and encourage them to undertake an action, no matter how big or small.

There are currently more than two million Dementia Friends in the UK and the initiative was established to change people's perceptions about dementia. The campaign has grown to the point where actress Carey Mulligan became the first ever UK Global Dementia Friends Ambassador in 2016.

Sue said: "I raised over £3000 for Alzheimer's Society when I joined their 2017 London Marathon Running Team. This year I will be running again with Alzheimer's Society 2018 London Marathon team and wanted to launch a 'dementia awareness campaign'. Every Dementia Friends session that I deliver will represent a mile of my London Marathon run."

Lisa Courtney, Community Fund-raiser for Alzheimer's Society said: "This is a fantastically unique way of raising awareness about dementia and hopefully will drive Sue through every mile of the 2018 London Marathon."

To sponsor Sue for her London Marathon effort in 2018, visit <http://www.justgiving.com/Sue-Desborough4>

Her video is at <https://www.facebook.com/AlzheimersSocietyWest Midlands/videos/2036175359732366/>



Runner Sue seen from her video to raise awareness of dementia

## Shelter will remain open

A HOMELESS shelter in Walsall will be able to stay open until April after extra funding was agreed.

The Darwall Street shelter had been due to close last Wednesday – sparking fears homeless people could be left on the streets as temperatures plunged to -6C during the cold snap which was branded The Beast from the East.

But the YMCA, which runs the centre on behalf of Walsall Council, has been told it can stay open until April 3. The council's social care chief Diane

Coughlan said: "I'm so relieved we have been able to extend it for another month."

"It gives us extra time to work with the services users. "Just the thought of people sleeping out in this beggars belief."

Meanwhile, night shelter co-ordinator Jean Garwood said: "We have been actively working to try and get as many people housed and this gives us more time to try and find suitable accommodation."

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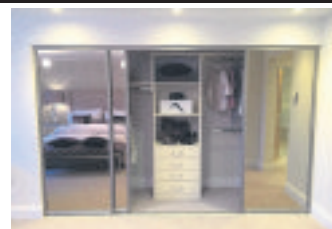
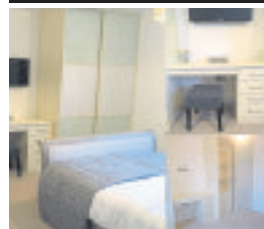
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# New book offers support to 'forgotten mourners'

A BOOK to support bereaved children who have lost a parent or carer has been launched in Burntwood. **Never Too Young to Grieve** is aimed at people who help grieving children.

It offers guidance and information and activities specifically to support the 'forgotten mourner' generation, often left behind in the grieving process.

The book was produced following a partnership between Burntwood-based childcare provider Busy Bees and the charity Winston's Wish.

Marg Randles, co-founder and chief academic officer of Busy Bees Childcare, said: "I am sure that this book will support everyone and will have a positive impact on the lives of young children experiencing bereavement."

Busy Bees nurseries across the country raised £90,000 through a year of activities including fancy dress days and half marathons, and part of this fundraising went towards Winston's Wish producing the book.

The publication is aimed at nursery practitioners, parents, carers and anyone supporting children under the age of five experiencing bereavement. Each of Busy Bees 344 nurseries has a copy to guide the nursery practitioners. The book draws on 25 years' experience of Winston's Wish supporting bereaved children, young people and their families.

Fergus Crow, CEO of Winston's Wish, said: "Busy Bees' support has been vital to the creation of the book and we thank them for their dedicated fundraising."

To purchase a copy of the book visit [shop.winstonswish.org](http://shop.winstonswish.org)



Marg Randles and Keelie Leahy, of Busy Bees and Susie Gallagher, Winston's Wish

## Church tries to reach out

A CHURCH has launched a survey in an attempt to connect more with the local community.

The New Testament Church of God, based in Chuckery, Walsall, says it 'seeks to become an integral and important provider of key services'.

Phase one of its engagement strategy saw volunteers of the church delivering letters, accompanied with a short survey, to more than 600 homes

and businesses within Chuckery. Winston Taylor, the senior pastor at Family Worship Centre, said: "I have launched a new vision for the church. Developing and strengthening our relationship with the local Chuckery community is essential and of paramount importance."

A coffee morning has also been arranged on March 17 from 10am until noon at the Chuckery Road church.

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# Is this the face of poor Bella of the Wych Elm?

**WHO Put Bella in the Wych Elm? There has been a major development in one of the region's most famous and macabre murder mysteries.**

Now the face of the victim can be seen for the first time after it was digitally recreated by a team from Liverpool John Moore's University.

Led by Professor Caroline Wilkinson, a specialist in the craniofacial depiction of people from the past, the team has created a picture of how 'Bella' might have looked before her mysterious death and the finding of her skeletal remains in the hollow of a tree near Hagley.

Her face from the 1940s has been digitally created using pictures of the skull of the victim, which was found by children in the woods during the war years.

## Ritual

Speculation has ranged from her being a murdered prostitute, to a German spy or even the victim of a Satanic ritual.

The picture is in a new book by Halesowen author Pete Merrill and his teenaged son Alex called 'Who Put Bella In The Wych Elm?: Volume 1: The Crime Scene Revisited' available via Amazon.

The title comes from the enigmatic graffiti that began appearing across the area, most famously on the Wychbury Obelisk near Hagley, when police were unable to make progress with identifying the victim or finding the killer, or killers.

The Merrills hired Prof Wilkinson and her team after they recreated the image of King Richard III from bones discovered under a Leicester car park.



Bella? Picture: Pete Merrill / APS Books



Famous graffiti on Wychbury Obelisk

## Railway museum rethink

ARCHITECTS planning an extension to a popular railway museum are having to go back to the drawing boards.

A £1.5 million extension is being planned for Kidderminster Railway Museum which is currently based in a former Great Western Railway warehouse at the Severn Valley Railway.

Plans had been drawn up for a new building to be sited on land adjacent to the existing building and for

a bridge to link the two properties. Now museum bosses have been offered a decorative Victorian cast iron lattice railway bridge from a station at Marple in Cheshire which they hope to incorporate in the design.

However, it is 34 feet long and, because initial plans were for a 10 to 15 foot long bridge to link the two buildings, plans for the extension and link are having to be redrawn.

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# More apprentices find work at smaller firms

**A GROWING** number of smaller businesses in the West Midlands are embracing apprenticeships.

A new study found 76 per cent of small and medium-sized business owners and senior workers who have taken on apprentices saying that they have added value to their business within six months of taking them on.

The study by the Association of Accounting Technicians, commissioned for National Apprenticeship Week, found that businesses appreciate the value apprenticeships can bring to them, with 60 per cent saying that taking on apprentices has been good value for money for them, 64 per cent that they get staff who are more suited to their businesses and the skills they need by taking them on as apprentices and 48 per cent that they have boosted productivity within their business.

The average number of apprentices taken on by small businesses in the West Midlands in the past two years is four, compared with an average of three across England as a whole.

Also 12 per cent of businesses have taken on five or more and 80 per cent say that the number of apprentices they have taken on in the past five years has grown.

On average, the businesses in the West Midlands who have taken on apprentices say they have offered to keep on 66 per cent of them after they finished their apprenticeship, with 20 per cent saying they have offered to keep on all the apprentices they have ever taken on.

Rob Alder, head of business development at AAT, said: "The theme of this year's National Apprenticeship Week is 'Apprentices Work', and our research shows that smaller businesses in the West Midlands hugely endorse apprentices within their own firms.

"It shows that many smaller businesses value the benefits apprentices can bring to them."

## Folk adds to music mix



**Maddy Prior, who is appearing at the Guildhall in Lichfield**

A CONCERT venue is tuning up for a month of music with acts covering everything from jazz to folk and blues. The new season at the Guildhall in Lichfield starts on April 1 with The Climax Blues Band. Tickets are £15, £13.50 for Friends of Lichfield Arts and £7.50 for under-16s.

A change of genre sees folk singer Maddy Prior appearing at the Guildhall with multi-instrumentalist Giles Lewin and singer and clog

dancer Hannah James on April 21. Tickets are £18, £16.20 and £9 for under-16s.

Finally, on April 27, Miranda Sykes, the acclaimed singer and bassist with Show of Hands, will be performing songs from her new album Borrowed Places. Tickets are £12, £10.80 for Friends of Lichfield Arts and £6 for under 16s. To book, call 01543 262223, go to [lichfieldarts.org.uk](http://lichfieldarts.org.uk) or drop in to the box office in Donegal House, Bore Street.

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# Bright future for students at academy

The future is bright for staff and students at Joseph Leckie Academy.

Academic progress of students is amongst the very best in Walsall at both Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5. And in 2019 there will be further world class provision at the school, including purpose-built sixth form study areas, business suite, languages and music teaching areas as well as a state-of-the-art library and facilities for students with special educational needs.

The academy was placed fifth for overall progress at KS4 and fourth in Walsall for mathematics at GCSE level (summer 2017 examination results).

At Key Stage 5, positive A-level results meant that the academy was placed seventh within Walsall, with the vast majority of courses achieving a perfect 100 per cent pass rate.

## Opportunity

Many sixth form students have already gained unconditional places at universities across the country, with a number of students being offered places at prestigious Russell Group universities.

Students joining the school in Year 7 always settle in quickly. The tailored induction programme ensures that all students joining from primary schools have the opportunity to visit the academy in the summer of their Year 6 to take part in structured and fun activities where they have the opportunity to take part in lessons, meet staff and make new friends.

Students are made to feel secure and welcome, meaning that new Year 7 students are familiar with the site and already know their teaching staff and classrooms on their first day at "big school".

The academy employs several staff members that help strengthen the strong community bonds the school prides itself on. These range



Students at Joseph Leckie Academy have shown good progress at both Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 and are looking forward to the state-of-the-art facilities that are currently being built

from home liaison officers to pastoral support managers.

Sporting facilities, including a sports hall and 25-metre swimming pool, enable people of all ages to remain active at weekends, evenings and holidays, whilst the commitment to life-long learning, means that modern classrooms are accessed by the local community to provide a platform for all to learn.

Contractors are now on site and the new block is due to be completed in March 2019. It will consist of 14 classrooms as well as

small group classrooms and curriculum office/storage spaces. The classrooms will be used for teaching modern foreign languages, business studies, music, health, social and child care and learning support/special educational needs. In addition to these classrooms there will be a new entrance/foyer and reception areas as well as administrative offices and reprographics facilities.

All of the new classrooms will be fully Wi-Fi enabled and fitted with the latest smart boards and teaching walls.

New landscaping and social areas to include seating, one or two multi-use game areas (MUGAS) and a running track will enhance the environment and the academy.

The academy has put in a bid for a further £4 million from the Education Funding Agency which if successful will provide further state-of-the-art facilities for sixth form teaching rooms, private study and social areas, library/resources centre, dining, kitchen and administrative spaces.

Keith Whittlestone, Principal, said: "This

investment in our academy will further transform the learning environment for our students and their teachers. Ensuring that all of our students have access to the best possible facilities is part of our commitment to help them to reach their potential. These buildings will provide ultra-modern, fit-for-purpose facilities for our students for many years to come."

With so much going on and with examination results proving how dedicated the school is to academic success – it is a great time to join Joseph Leckie Academy.



With plans for renovation of the current long-standing buildings, a new state of the art teaching block opened last year and schedules for a completely new teaching block, costing approximately £3.9 million, to be finished in the early stages of 2019, the future is unquestionably bright for Joseph Leckie.

We have seen major improvements in exam results from both GCSEs and A-Levels (at grades A\*-C) and we are only expecting more progress.

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# South Bank stand may double in size at Wolves

MOLINEUX'S iconic South Bank stand could become one of the biggest single-tier stands in the country under initial Wolves stadium redevelopment plans, according to reports.

Wolves are thought to be considering expanding the Jack Hayward Stand – commonly known as the South Bank – to a capacity of up to 10,000 seats.

It's believed they hope to build back on the existing stand, which houses around 5,000 fans. However the car park area immediately behind the stand is owned by Carillion and it's understood that potentially lengthy negotiations are currently ongoing as to the purchase of the land.

## Premier

And it is believed that any redevelopment work wouldn't take place next season, even if Wolves win promotion to the top flight.

It's believed that spending money on the team would be a higher priority, with any stadium expansion only taking place should the club stay in the Premier League.

The redevelopment of Molineux has been on hold since 2012 when the team was relegated from the Premier League. The £18 million Stan Cullis Stand opened that year and under £40m proposals spearheaded by previous owner Steve Morgan the Steve Bull and Jack Hayward stands would have been next, both with two tiers.

With Wolves now edging nearer to a return to the top flight, owners Fosun are working on what would be a revamped plan to expand Molineux.

Managing director Laurie Dalrymple said in October that initial discus-



The Sir Jack Hayward stand, named after the former chairman of the club

sions had taken place and that the club could keep the South Bank as a single tier, after feedback from supporters.

He said at the time: "The biggest box to tick is promotion – that's when we can really start talking about it."

"One of the reassurances fans want is around the South Bank, they want it as a single tier, which is clearly something we'd want to ensure, that we fulfil their requirements and wishes."

"And it's also important to retain

some of the existing really important features of the ground."

In 2015 it was renamed after Sir Jack Hayward, who died earlier that year aged 91.

Wolverhampton-based construction and services giant Carillion is currently in administration.

Both Wolves and the Government's Insolvency Service, which is acting on behalf of Carillion, declined to comment.

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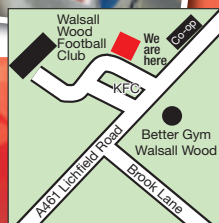
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## Commercial feature

If you are the parent or carer of an adult who has a learning disability and are looking for a day centre run by experienced and caring professionals then the Motivation Hub in Walsall Wood could be just what you have been looking for.

Suzanne Sant, who has 23 years experience working in adult care, saw the need for a new day centre for Walsall residents when most of the council-run facilities were closed down due to lack of funding.

The Motivation Hub is based at the rear of Walsall Wood Primary School just off Lichfield Road and offers a range of activities, including arts and crafts, cooking, bingo, karaoke and local visits and trips. It is staffed by Suzanne herself, her deputy Emma – who is a very experienced SEN 1-1 support worker – and a range of other highly-qualified sessional workers.

They also have two volunteers Dawn and Michael who help make drinks and keep the kitchen clean and tidy. Both have a disability and volunteer one day a week each.

Since the hub opened it has made a positive difference in the lives of its clients and has become an integral part of their weekly routine.

The mother of one of the service users said: "Kirsty had been at home for two years with no suitable service for her to access. Kirsty now attends the hub twice a week and has grown in confidence. We are currently waiting for her funding to be re-assessed and



Motivation Hub service user Kirsty, left, enjoying a recent outing

she hopes to be able to attend five days a week." The team at the hub try to offer individuals as many different experiences as possible, priding themselves on really listening to each person and assessing their needs in order to design activities to suit them.

The facilities are currently being improved at the hub so that they will be able to offer an even broader range

of activities. There will be a fete held at the hub on April 7 to help raise much-needed funds for equipment, and everyone is welcome.

The team would like to welcome new service users so if you think you may know someone who would benefit from what they have to offer, please call Suzanne on 07388 553615 to make appointment to visit the centre.

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# Cycling hero Hugh backs games velodrome battle

**CYCLING** legend Hugh Porter **MBE** has backed a campaign to build a new velodrome in the West Midlands ahead of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

The region does not possess a single indoor banked race track and there are fears the competition's cycling events could be held 130 miles away in London.

It has prompted Halesowen & Rowley Regis MP James Morris to launch a cross-party campaign with support from 13 West Midlands MPs calling for a new venue.

Mr Porter, who won Commonwealth gold on the track in 1966, said: "I definitely support the campaign. I would like to see a velodrome built to host Commonwealth cycling."

"I am delighted Birmingham was awarded the Games but I think if we are going to promote the Games, we should be able to provide the facilities. "I feel sad competitors won't be able to compete where we are."

Mr Porter, 78, who was born in Wolverhampton, is one of Britain's greatest professional cyclists. He also won four world titles in the individual pursuit and is a patron of Halesowen Cycling Club.

The cycling champion as also urged more people to sign up for this year's Banks's Round the Wrekin Sportive.

He said: "The number are up to 270 already which is still ahead of last year quite significantly."

"We would love to get 1,000 people signed up - that's the magic figure and if we could hit that I would be delighted."

"We held a spin class in Wombourne which was an opportunity for people



Former World Cycling Champion Hugh Porter, with, from left, Georgina Heath, from Active Fitness Club, along with fundraisers Lisa and John Bockhoefer

that have already committed to ride the sportive.

"It was an opportunity for people to be able to train without and an opportunity for me to say a few words."

Fundraisers from across the region are set to come together for the sportive on May 20.

The annual event, at Dudley King'swinford Rugby Club, raised £28,000 for Compton Hospice last year.

Riders can join one of three routes - either 100 miles, 64 miles or 24 miles. Halesowen Cycling Club's outdoor

track, the 70-year-old Manor Abbey based in Manor Way, has received praise from Mr Morris who called it a 'superb' facility which promotes grass-roots cycling. But he said the region is in urgent need of a modern indoor track.

He has wrote a letter to the chief executive officer of British Cycling, Julie Harrington, outlining the concerns.

The letter has been backed by 13 West Midlands MPs including Dudley MPs Ian Austin and Mike Wood and Wolverhampton MP Emma Reynolds.

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It's been called 'a spellbinding production'. And the contemporary cultural phenomenon that is *The Kite Runner* will make its debut at Birmingham's REP from Tuesday to March 24.

The performances follow an outstanding West End for the show, which is based on Khaled Hosseini's international bestselling novel.

Audiences can look forward to a haunting tale of friendship which spans cultures and continents and follows one man's journey to confront his past and find redemption.

The action centres on Afghanistan, a divided country on the verge of war and in which two childhood friends are about to be torn apart.

The scene is set on a beautiful afternoon in Kabul when the skies are full of the excitement and joy of a kite-flying tournament. But neither Hassan nor Amir can foresee the terrible incident which will shatter their lives forever.

The production features an impressive cast, including Ravi Aujla, Jo Ben Ayed, Raj Ghatak, Amiera Darwish and Rez Kabir.

Rez plays Mary in the story of youth, transgression and redemption.

She believes audiences will go away having learned much.

"Younger audiences will take something from it, an older generation will pick up on something else, but the great appeal of this play is the beautiful moments of joy and humour that exist in life. Everyone will be able to connect."

The play is brought to life by music created by musical director and composer Jonathan Girling.

He says: "Putting on a play always involves collaboration. The most important person is the director, who puts the team together, makes all the final decisions, and is the driving force behind the production."

"The rest of the creative team is made up of the writer, the set-designer, lighting designer, composer, movement director, sound designer, fight director and that's just the tip of the iceberg. There's a huge team of people that have made *The Kite Runner* happen."

As the composer, the script and director are always my primary points of reference when thinking about the music. What does the script say to me (what sounds, tunes, emotions, textures or colours does it make me imagine?), and then what does the director want to do with the play?

"Once I've spent some time with the director and script, I'll start working on ideas, listing key scenes and moments in the drama. These initial ideas – normally written notes on traditional manuscript, or an instrument or two – are then introduced into the rehearsal room, and that's where the real magic starts to happen."

Jonathan says with the first version of the show, *The Kite Runner* had a great singer whose voice inspired him to think about writing songs to underpin some key emotional scenes. After he'd written the songs, and taught him the music, they rehearsed them into

Flying high – it's based on the novel by Khaled Hosseini



each scene to see how they worked. Tabla was also an important addition.

"The next most important person for me in *The Kite Runner* is the near-omnipresent tabla player. The tabla – Indian drums you'll see at the front of the stage – are mentioned in the script, but the use of tabla music presented me with my biggest challenge. I hadn't researched Indian music since I was at university, so

I enlisted the help of the Asian Music Network (Viram Jasani) and Emeritus Professor of Afghan Music & Ethnomusicology at Goldsmiths, John Baily.

"Viram helped me find a tabla player – Hanif Kahn – and John took me through the (very subtle) differences between Afghan, Indian and Pakistan classical music."

"With their initial help and oversight, Hanif and I started on a five-week exploration of collaborative creativity that produced all of the tabla music in *The Kite Runner*. Hanif couldn't read western notation, and I couldn't understand how on earth he played such complex rhythms, so we initially just had to find a way of communicating (mostly in gestures, sounds and taps!).

*The most important person is the director, who puts the team together*

"In the end, some of the rhythms are original Jonathan – as in Assef's first appearance – and others are me honing and shaping traditional Indian rhythms into music cues useful for the drama, perfectly executed by Hanif on the stage."

As Jonathan and Hanif introduced more and more tabla music into the show, things started to take shape. But the one thing Jonathan never interfered with was Hanif's pre-show performance, in which he demonstrates his virtuosity.

*The Kite Runner* also features plenty of songs. Jonathan adds: "The songs themselves are sung live but off-stage, hidden from the audience. The singers can see the action, but we can't see them."

"I experimented with a number of ragas – Indian classical scales, akin to Western major and minor scales – to reinforce the authentic nature of *The Kite Runner*. In the end, the songs were based on Raag Malkauns, one of the oldest Indian ragas, each one a variation on the other (apart from the female 'wailing' song)."

"The raga contains a haunting, contemplative character that lends itself well to the play."

● For more entertainment news and reviews see *The Ticket* in your Express & Star every Friday.





The Globe of Death



## Daredevil biker stunts at contemporary circus show

After a sell-out West End run and nationwide tour, Cirque Berserk! the UK's biggest theatre-circus spectacular is coming back to the West Midlands.

After thrilling audiences at Birmingham Rep last year, the daring troupe will be at the New Alexandra Theatre from March 14 to 18 with evening and matinee shows.

Combining contemporary cirque-style artistry with adrenaline-fuelled stunt action, Cirque Berserk! is a

spectacle including the famous motorcycle Globe of Death that sees four motorcyclists reaching speeds of over 60mph within the confines of a locked steel sphere.

Audiences can also experience exhilarating acts featuring more than 30 jugglers, acrobats, aerialists, dancers, drummers and daredevil stuntpeople.

For further details see [www.atgtickets.com/shows/cirque-bersek/new-alexandra-theatre-birmingham](http://www.atgtickets.com/shows/cirque-bersek/new-alexandra-theatre-birmingham) online.

## Fatherhood brings a reBrand for comic



Bad boy of comedy Russell Brand will return to Birmingham's Symphony Hall tonight (Thursday) with his new show, Re:Birth.

The show came about after Brand became a parent, which he says poses the question: "How can you be a dangerous, edgy, rebel with a tiny little daughter?"

Brand brought the show to Birmingham late last year – and it was evident that much had changed since his previous tours.

He admits he's changed considerably. He told one interviewer: "Yes, I'm less mad now.

I was a needy person. I mean, that condition abides, but I manage it better now, I think."

Brand's show features his observations on Donald Trump, fatherhood and his frequently turbulent relationship with the media.

When he last visited Birmingham, he spoke at length about a disastrous interview with Jeremy Paxman and also showed that he has been willing to learn from his mistakes.

Brand says much of the change in his life came about when he met his wife, Laura Gallacher. He told one interviewer that it had changed

his approach to the way he lives – and also to money.

"I'm lucky because I have been dirty poor and now I'm stinky rich – not that rich actually, I gave away a lot. But it doesn't make that much difference. I am in a position of privilege, there's no question about it. I am not trying to motivate anyone into trying to get their hands on a stack of cash, it's more like a motivation to recognise that you probably already have what you need and, while you can purchase pleasure with a big stack of cash, you cannot purchase happiness."

## A razor-sharp show from WOS

You'll never trust a barber again – the macabre tale of Sweeney Todd (played by Richard Poynton, pictured) is coming to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday. One of Stephen Sondheim's most powerful scores, this musical concerns the infamous cut-throat barber who took bloody revenge against those who wronged him in 19th century London. Don't have a pie for dinner. Walsall Operatic Society are on stage at 7.30pm plus Saturday matinee.



## Symphony orchestra play Bowie favourites

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra present an orchestral tribute to The Music of David Bowie at the Symphony Hall tomorrow (Friday). Brent Havens will conduct the CBSO, joined by a rock band and West End star Tony Vincent, for new interpretations of such Bowie classics as Life on Mars, Heroes, Ashes to Ashes, Ziggy Stardust and Space Oddity. New York-based singer Tony Vincent was in the Broadway cast of Rent and went on to play the lead role of Galileo Figaro in Queen musical We Will Rock You in London, performing Bohemian Rhapsody with Queen during 2002's Party at the Palace. He went on to originate the role of St Jimmy in Green Day musical American Idiot. Before the concert, young musicians will be performing music inspired by Bowie as part of CBSO's Project Remix. See [thsh.co.uk](http://thsh.co.uk) for details.

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CHOICE



Janet Leigh

**Hitchcock's Shower Scene: 78/52 (BBC2, 9pm)**  
Premiere. Documentary taking a look at the enduring legacy of the infamous and iconic shower scene in Alfred Hitchcock's Psycho - in which Janet Leigh's character Marion Crane is stabbed to death - a segment that arguably changed the course of world cinema. The sequence took a week to film and used up a quarter of the movie's entire production schedule, requiring 78 set-ups and 52 cuts to achieve.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Classic Mary Berry. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** MasterChef. (R) **2.15** MasterChef. (R) **3.15** Coast and Country Auctions. **4.00** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. France v England (Kick-off 4.45pm).  
**7.00** **BBC News.**  
**7.10** **Regional Programme.**  
**7.20** **Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present as famous faces take part in the general knowledge quiz in which they try to come up with the least likely correct answers to a series of questions posed to members of the public. Contestants are Bob Harris, Chris Difford, Kerry Godliman, Miles Jupp, Jenny Eclair, Linda Robson, Debbie McGee and Angelos Epithemio.  
**8.10** **Casualty.** Jac Naylor arrives in the ED and sets an ultimatum. CEO Serena Campbell wants the Rage in Ruesus blog to be shut down by the end of the day or its author – and Ethan – will be fired.  
**9.00** **Troy: Fall of a City.** Achilles' shock attack on Troy's ally Cilicia devastates the Trojans and puts the spotlight on Helen. Meanwhile, Andromache receives both good and bad news, and a bitter dispute erupts between Agamemnon and Achilles. The fourth episode of David Farr's Ancient Greek historical drama based on the Trojan War and the love affair between Paris and Helen, starring Louis Hunter, David Gyasi, Bella Dayne, Chloe Pirrie, Johnny Harris, Lemogang Tsipa, David Threlfall, Frances O'Connor and Jamie-Lee Money.  
**10.00** **BBC News: Weather.**; National Lottery Update.  
**10.20** **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Manchester United v Liverpool at Old Trafford and Chelsea v Crystal Palace at Stamford Bridge.  
**11.45** **Film: A Few Best Men.** (2011) An Englishman proposes to his Australian girlfriend, but the antics of his three best men turn the wedding into a disaster. Comedy, starring Xavier Samuel.  
**1.15** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.10** The Wonder of Animals. (R) **6.40** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. (R) **7.10** The Pets Factor. **7.30** The Designers. **8.00** Absolute Genius: Monster Builds. **8.30** Beyond Bionic. **9.00** Robot Wars. (R) **10.00** Gorilla Family and Me. (R) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Cats v Dogs: Which Is Best? (R) **1.00** Film: The Caine Mutiny. (1954) **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.30** Me and My Dog: The Ultimate Contest. (R) **4.30** Final Score. **5.30** Flog It! (R) **6.00** **Hugh's Wild West.** Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall discovers how the people and animals of Dartmoor live alongside each other, visiting an ancient hill farm housing dozens of house martins and swallows.  
**7.00** **Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby.** Giles Coren and Monica Galletti visit Oman's Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar, the highest five-star hotel in the Middle East and a resort blending local tradition with modern tastes. (R)  
**8.00** **David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities.** The naturalist explores the extremes of birth in the animal kingdom, explaining why the giant panda gives birth to the smallest babies of any existing mammal.  
**8.30** **Dad's Army.** Captain Mainwaring and the platoon welcome the first American troops to Walmington-on-Sea, but Anglo-US relations become strained. Classic comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. (R)  
**9.00** **Film: Hitchcock's Shower Scene: 78/52.** (2017) Premiere. Documentary looking at the enduring legacy of the iconic shower scene in Alfred Hitchcock's Psycho, a segment that arguably changed the course of world cinema.  
**10.30** **QI XL.** Extended version of the quiz in which Deirdre O'Kane, Richard Osman and David Mitchell join Alan Davies to answer Sandi Toksvig's questions on the "Occupations and Offices" theme.  
**11.15** **Film: Dial M for Murder.** (1954) A tennis player's plan to arrange the death of his socialite wife goes wrong when she kills her would-be assassin. Alfred Hitchcock's thriller, with Ray Milland and Grace Kelly.  
**12.55** **Film: The Lady Vanishes.** (1938) **2.30** Civilisations. (R) **3.25** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITV: Sooty. **6.10** The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Bagel and Becky Show. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Do! (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Wishart. (R) **9.25** James Martin's Saturday Morning. **11.20** Dancing on Ice. (R) **1.15** ITV News: Weather. **1.25** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Ireland v Scotland (Kick-off 2.15pm). **4.30** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R) **6.00** **ITV News: Weather.**  
**6.15** **Regional Programme; Weather.**  
**6.30** **New You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring a fire extinguisher that explodes in a builder's face and a dog that looks like Andrew Lloyd Webber.  
**7.00** **Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.** The entertainment variety show continues, with James Corden taking time out from his busy schedule across the Atlantic to join the Georgie duo as this week's star guest announcer. Plus, there is more spoof mystery as Ant and Dec once again put their OBEs to use as part of a task force of celebrity secret agents with honours. Stephen Mulhern is in Reading for the latest edition of In for a Penny, and in celebration of Andrew Lloyd Webber's upcoming 70th birthday, the End of the Show Show features some of his best-loved numbers in the studio.  
**8.30** **The Voice UK.** Tom Jones, Will.i.am, Olly Murs and Jennifer Hudson take their places on the spinning chairs once again, as the contest edges closer to its conclusion with the final battle round.  
**9.50** **Piers Morgan's Life Stories.** The host talks to comedian Jim Davidson about his life, from presenting The Generation Game and Big Break to alcohol addiction and domestic violence allegations. Last in the series.  
**10.40** **ITV News: Weather.**  
**11.05** **Film: 2 Fast 2 Furious.** (2003) **1.05** Jackpot247. **3.00** Babushka. (R)

CHANNEL 4

**6.00** Winter Paralympics Live. **8.00** Winter Paralympics Breakfast. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **2.25** Coast vs Country. (R) **3.25** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.30** Crufts Extra with Alan and Clare. **5.30** Channel 4 News.  
**6.00** **Winter Paralympics Today.** Lee McKenzie and Jonnie Peacock are at Snow Centre in Hernal Hempstead to present action from day two of the Games in PyeongChang, South Korea, including the men's and women's downhill skiing, and Great Britain v Norway in wheelchair curling. With analysis from Charlotte Evans and Jade Etherington.  
**7.00** **Crufts 2018.** Clare Balding presents live coverage of the judging of the Vulnerable Breeds, Utility and Hound Groups and highlights of the Agility and Flyball competitions. Plus, a selection of reports involving rescue dogs, taking a look at the renovation of Manchester and Cheshire Dogs' Home following a fire and revealing why foreign rescue dog charities are growing in popularity. Plus, training tips with Carolyn Meneteth and advice on canine health from Noel Fitzpatrick.  
**9.00** **Film: 45 Years.** (2015) Premiere. A woman prepares to celebrate her 45th wedding anniversary, but one week beforehand, her husband receives a letter revealing that the body of his previous partner has been found frozen in the Swiss Alps. The message exposes the cracks in their relationship. Drama, starring Charlotte Rampling, Tom Courtenay and Geraldine James.  
**10.50** **First Dates.** A woman keen to settle down and start a family has a date with an adventurer who has climbed the Matterhorn and swum oceans, while a 73-year-old has her first date for 74 years. (R)  
**11.55** **The Inbetweeners.** Will is unhappy about being forced to take a work experience job at a garage due to a mix-up that sees Neil joining a newspaper. (R)  
**12.30** Winter Paralympics Live. **5.00** Food Unwrapped. (R) **5.30** Streetmate. (R) **5.55** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **9.50** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.25** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.15** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **3.10** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **4.05** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **5.00** The Secret Life of Kittens. (R)  
**6.00** **Cruising with Jane McDonald.** Travelling the Baltic on board the Viking Sky, the presenter takes full advantage of the ship's amenities. Her first stop is Tallinn in Estonia, a medieval town with much ancient architecture. Next up is St Petersburg in Russia, where Jane heads to the Hermitage Museum, hoping to spot the cats that traditionally live in the basement. The third stop is Helsinki in Finland, where Jane meets a woman whose ambition is to kiss a brown bear. Finally, the ship pulls into the Swedish capital of Stockholm. (R)  
**7.00** **Brunel's Britain: Master of Bridges.** In a two-part series, Rob Bell explores the work of Victorian engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel, exploring his complex personality as well as his prolific achievements. (R)  
**8.00** **Brunel's Britain: King of the Sea.** Rob Bell concludes his two-part documentary series by telling the story of Brunel's two masterpieces of ship design, the SS Great Britain and the SS Great Eastern. (R)  
**8.55** **5 News Weekend.**  
**9.00** **Football on 5: The Championship.** Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Aston Villa v Wolverhampton Wanderers and Cardiff City v Birmingham City.  
**10.00** **Football on 5: Goal Rush.** Colin Murray introduces action from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including AFC Wimbledon v Oxford United, Blackburn Rovers v Blackpool and Coventry City v Barnet.  
**10.30** **Jane McDonald & Friends.** A mixture of some favourite songs, performed with the singer's own band and dancers. In this edition, Jane is accompanied by Alexander O'Neal and Shane Filan. (R)  
**11.25** **Celebrity 5 Go Motorhoming.** (R) **12.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Cowboy Builders. (R) **4.45** House Doctor. (R) **5.10** House Busters. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Lost Kingdoms of Central America  
**8.00** Masters of the Pacific Coast: The Tribes of the American Northwest **9.00** Below the Surface **10.30** Roy Orbison: One of the Lonely Ones **11.30** TOTP2: Wham! Special **12.00** Film: Janis: Little Girl Blue (2015) **1.30** The Joy of Rachmaninoff **2.30** Masters of the Pacific Coast: The Tribes of the American Northwest **3.30** TOTP2: Wham! Special **4.00** Close  
**ITV2**  
**11.25** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **1.00** Take Me Out: 10th Anniversary Special **2.00** Catchphrase Mother's Day Special **3.05** Film: Hotel Transylvania (2012) **4.10** FYI Daily **4.15** Film: Hotel Transylvania (2012) **4.55** Film: Uncle Buck (1989) **5.55** FYI Daily **6.00** Film: Uncle Buck (1989) **6.45** Film: Jack the Giant Slayer (2013) **7.50** FYI Daily **7.55** Film: Jack the Giant Slayer (2013) **9.00** Film: The Expendables (2010) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: The Expendables (2010) **11.05** Family Guy **12.05** American Dad! **12.55** Action Team **2.00** Ibiza Weekender **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen  
**ITV3**  
**12.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **2.55** Film: Columbo: The Murder of a Rock Star (1991) **4.55** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Lewis **1.05** The Good Karma Hospital **1.55** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping  
**ITV4**  
**1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Sandown. Coverage from Sandown Park and Wolverhampton. **4.00** Film: Battle of Britain (1969) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10** Film: Battle of Britain (1969) **6.40** Football's Greatest: David Beckham **7.00** Storage Wars **7.55** The Celebrity Chase **9.00** Film: The Chronicles of Riddick (2004) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** Film: The Chronicles of Riddick (2004) **11.20** Film: This Is the End (2013) **12.20** FYI Daily **12.25** Film: This Is the End (2013) **1.30** The Sweeney **2.25** The Protectors **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping  
**E4**  
**11.05** Film: Stuart Little 2 (2002) **12.40** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **1.00** The Big Bang Theory **4.00** The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer **5.15** Extreme Cake Makers **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **6.30** Film: Captain America: The First Avenger (2011) **9.00** Film: Salt (2010) **11.05** Googlebox **12.05** Naked Attraction **1.15** Tattoo Fixers **2.20** Googlebox **3.15** Timeless **4.00** How I Met Your Mother **4.40** Don't Tell the Bride

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## CHOICE



Bruce Forsyth

### Sir Bruce: A Celebration (BBC1, 9pm)

Tess Daly hosts a special tribute to the veteran entertainer, who died in August last year. Filmed at the London Palladium, a variety of famous faces join Bruce's family, friends, fellow entertainers and broadcasters to celebrate his life in a variety show featuring songs, dance numbers and on-stage homages by guest with whom he shared a special connection. Includes music by Dave Arch and his Strictly Come Dancing band and vocalists, along with the BBC Concert Orchestra.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** BBC News. Weather. **12.30** MasterChef. (R) **1.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **1.55** Songs of Praise. **2.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Wales v Italy (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.05** Earth's Natural Wonders. (R) **6.05** BBC News. **6.20** Regional Programme. **6.30** Countryfile. The team heads to the Scottish Lowlands to shed light on rural issues in the Lothians and the Borders. Steve Brown heads out on the trail of the elusive mud snail, which plays a crucial role in the region's ecosystem. Anita Rani cycles along the sands of the East Lothian coast on a "fat bike", which has larger than normal tyres to avoid disturbing natural habitats, and Matt Baker reveals how the people of St Abbs fought against the odds to keep their lifeboat service running. Plus, Adam Henson visits Edinburgh's Agricultural College, where researchers are working to find a way to fix the methane problem caused by the estimated 10 million cattle in the UK. **7.30** Hold the Sunset. Edith confronts a ghost from the past when the house is broken into at night, while tensions rise between Roger and Wendy. Guest starring James Cosmo (Game of Thrones). **8.00** Call the Midwife. As the nurses and midwives prepares for Sister Monica Joan's birthday, they face an influx of new patients when a nearby maternity home suddenly closes. Last in the series. **9.00** Sir Bruce: A Celebration. Tess Daly pays tribute to the veteran entertainer, who died in August last year, with a special variety programme celebrating his life filmed at the London Palladium. **10.05** BBC News. **10.25** Regional Programme. **10.35** Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman presents highlights of the day's two Premier League matches - Arsenal v Watford at the Emirates Stadium and Bournemouth v Tottenham Hotspur at the Vitality Stadium. **11.35** Film: Fright Night. (2011) **1.15** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.20** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.10** Coast. (R) **6.55** A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.15** The Instant Gardener. (R) **8.05** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.35** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** Saturday Kitchen. Share a Story. **11.00** Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. (R) **11.45** Lorraine. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** The Ladykillers: Pest Detectives. (R) **2.00** Money for Nothing. (R) **2.45** Film: Laura. (1944) Murder mystery, with Dana Andrews and Gene Tierney. **4.10** Back in Time for Tea. (R) **5.10** The World's Most Extraordinary Homes. (R) **6.10** Film: Deep Impact. (1998) A TV reporter investigating a presidential misdemeanour stumbles on evidence that a comet is on a collision course with Earth, threatening the future of the human race. Meanwhile, an astronaut prepares to lead his crew on a do-or-die mission to intercept the danger. Sci-fi drama, starring Robert Duvall, Tea Leoni, Morgan Freeman and Elijah Wood. **8.00** Top Gear. Matt LeBlanc and Chris Harris take second-hand sports cars on a road trip across the Japanese island of Honshu, while Rory Reid explores Tokyo's weirdest car-based subculture. **9.00** Life and Death Row: The Mass Execution. A look at capital punishment through the eyes of young people whose lives have been shaped by it, including interviews from those on death row. Last in the series. **10.20** The Mash Report. Nish Kumar and a cast of comedy correspondents present this satirical and surreal take on the news during July 2017. (R) **10.50** Top Gear: Extra Gear. Rory Reid visits a secret stash of cars in Japan, and Chris Harris hits the track in a Nissan 370Z Nismo. With guests comedian Matt Richardson and racing driver Jann Mardenborough. **11.15** Women's Six Nations Highlights. Action from the fourth round of fixtures - France v England at the Stade des Alpes in Grenoble, Wales v Italy at the Principality Stadium and Ireland v Scotland at Donnybrook. **11.45** Sign Zone: Question Time. Topical debate from Westminster, chaired by David Dimbleby. (R) **12.45** Immigration: Who Should We Let In? - Panorama. (R) **1.15** Holby City. (R) **2.10** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.30** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go! (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Spy School. **9.05** Scrambled!: Wishart. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Love Your Garden. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** The Voice UK. (R) **12.20** ITV News. Weather. **12.30** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. (R) **2.00** Britain's Brightest Family. (R) **2.30** Catchphrase Mother's Day Special. (R) **3.30** Tipping Point. (R) **4.30** ITV News. Weather. **4.45** Regional Programme. Weather. **5.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R) **6.00** Dancing on Ice - The Final. Phillip Schofield and Holly Willoughby introduce the grand final of the competitive figure-skating contest, as the final three celebrities and the professional partners once again take to the ice as they seek to claim the title of Champion of the Rink. As ever, Jayne Torvill, Christopher Dean, Jason Gardiner and Ashley Banjo form the judging panel, assessing each couple's skills and ultimately delivering the scores that will combine with the results of a public vote to determine which couple will emerge victorious. Plus, Torvill and Dean also put on their skates for one triumphant showcase performance, drawing the show to a close. Last in the series. **8.00** Endeavour. Morse investigates the disappearance of a teacher from a secretive school, while Thursday is determined to find a link between Eddie Nero and his murder case. Last in the series. **10.00** ITV News. Weather. **10.15** Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with Allegra Stratton. (R) **11.15** Six Nations Highlights. Jill Douglas presents action from the fourth round of fixtures, featuring Ireland v Scotland, France v England and Wales v Italy. **12.15** 100 Year Old Driving School. (R) **12.40** Marcella. (R) **1.30** Jackpot247. **3.00** Take on the Twisters. (R) **3.30** ITV Nightscreen.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.10** 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **6.35** 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **7.00** Tennis: The Break Tens. **8.00** Winter Paralympics Breakfast. **9.00** Fraser. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie's Quick & Easy Food. (R) **1.05** The Simpsons. (R) **1.35** The Simpsons. (R) **2.05** The Simpsons. (R) **2.35** The Simpsons. (R) **3.05** The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer. (R) **4.25** Crutts Extra with Alan and Clare. **5.30** Channel 4 News. **6.00** Winter Paralympics Today. Lee McKenzie and Jonnie Peacock are at Snow Centre in Hemel Hempstead to present action from day two of the Games in PyeongChang, South Korea. Great Britain's Kelly Gallacher and Scott Meenagh were medal hopes in the Super-G and 15km cross-country respectively, and Team GB had curling matches against Switzerland and Finland. **7.00** Crutts 2018: Best in Show. Clare Balding presents live coverage of the dog show as an overall champion is chosen from the six finalists. Plus, highlights of the Agility and Flyball finals and the Gundog group judging, and a look back at the finalists' journey through the competition. Noel Fitzpatrick selects his favourite moments from this year's contest and there is a report on the benefits of raw dog food. **9.00** Homeland. Carrie's mission to free the 200 imprisoned members of the intelligence community looks up as she follows a new lead, while Saul's situation goes from bad to worse. Espionage drama, starring Claire Danes and Mandy Patinkin. **10.00** The Last Leg Winter Paralympic Special. Adam Hills, Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker round-up action from the 2018 Winter Paralympics in PyeongChang, with help from Noel Fielding and special guest Paralympians. **11.00** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the words-and-numbers quiz, as Jon Richardson and David Mitchell take on guest captain Joe Wilkinson and Rob Conaty. (R) **12.00** Married at First Sight. (R) **1.00** The Inbetweeners. (R) **1.30** Winter Paralympics Live. Day three from PyeongChang, South Korea.

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **6.40** Moty. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Simon. (R) **6.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.15** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.45** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.55** Blaze and the Monster Machines. **8.20** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.35** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.55** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **9.10** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.25** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.40** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.00** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.05** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.40** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **12.00** Britain's Greatest Bridges. **12.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.15** Film: Open Season 2. (2008) Animated comedy sequel, with the voice of Joel McHale. **3.45** Film: Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2. (2013) **5.25** Film: Journey 2: The Mysterious Island. (2012) **6.25** 5 News Update. **6.30** Film: Journey 2: The Mysterious Island. (2012) Concluded. **7.15** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Max and Steve head to London to try to recover more than £21,000 in court costs. Aron and Cona chase almost £7,000 owed after a debtor failed to repay a loan to her ex-partner. (R) **8.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. The debt collectors take action to serve a writ issued for the organiser of a music festival. (R) **8.55** 5 News Weekend. **9.00** Film: Olympus Has Fallen. (2013) A disgraced secret service agent tries to redeem himself when terrorists take control of the White House. Action thriller, starring Gerard Butler, Aaron Eckhart and Morgan Freeman. **10.00** 5 News Update. **10.05** Film: Olympus Has Fallen. (2013) Concluded. **11.15** Film: Rise of the Krays. (2015) Biopic of the gangster brothers, charting their rise from amateur boxers to becoming the most feared criminals in London's underworld. With Kevin Leslie and Simon Cotton. **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Cowboy Builders. (R) **4.00** Now That's Funny! (R) **4.45** House Doctor. (R) **5.10** House Busters. (R) **5.35** Wildlife SOS. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Four** **7.00** Only Connect **7.30** University Challenge **8.00** Ancient Greece: The Greatest Show on Earth **9.00** Film: Michael Jackson's Journey from Motown to Off the Wall (2016) **10.30** Songs Motown **11.30** I'm Not in Love: The Story of 10cc **12.30** The Art of France **1.30** Smile! The Nation's Family Album **2.30** Sing's Motown **3.30** The Beauty of Anatomy **4.00** Close **ITV2** **12.20** The Voice UK **1.45** Film: The Flintstones (1994) **2.45** FYI Daily **2.50** Film: The Flintstones (1994) **3.30** Film: Dirty Dancing 2: Havana Nights (2004) **4.30** FYI Daily **4.35** Film: Dirty Dancing 2: Havana Nights (2004) **5.15** Film: Evan Almighty (2007) **6.15** FYI Daily **6.20** Film: Evan Almighty (2007) **7.10** Film: Gravity (2013) **8.15** FYI Daily **8.20** Film: Gravity (2013) **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30** Film: Zack and Miri Make a Porno (2008) **1.30** FYI Daily **1.35** Film: Zack and Miri Make a Porno (2008) **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3** **11.55** A Touch of Frost **3.55** Lewis **6.00** The Durrells **8.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs **9.00** Joanna Lumley's Trans-Siberian Adventure **10.00** An Audience with Victoria Wood **11.10** Lewis **1.10** Life of Crime **2.00** Blue Murder **3.20** Rising Damp **ITV4** **12.20** Pawn Stars **1.50** Film: Battle of Britain (1969) **2.50** FYI Daily **2.55** Film: Battle of Britain (1969) **4.30** Film: You Only Live Twice (1967) **5.35** FYI Daily **5.40** Film: You Only Live Twice (1967) **6.50** Hornblower **9.00** Film: Firefox (1982) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: Firefox (1982) **11.45** Film: Falling Down (1993) **12.50** FYI Daily **12.55** Film: Falling Down (1993) **2.00** River Monsters **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **E4** **12.00** The Big Bang Theory: Mother's Day **4.30** The Goldbergs **5.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.00** Young Sheldon **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **6.55** Film: I, Robot (2004) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Film: The World's End (2013) **12.10** The Big Bang Theory **1.10** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.10** Timeless **Film4** **11.00** Magic in the Water (1995) **1.00** A League of Their Own (1992) **3.40** We Bought a Zoo (2011) **8.05** The Karate Kid (2010) **9.00** The Mechanic (2011) **11.00** Captive (2015) **1.00** American Hustle (2013) **3.45** Close

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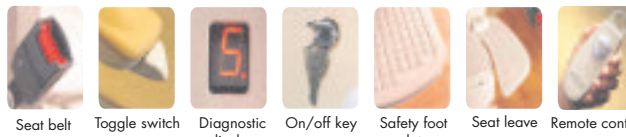
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John - Wednesfield Carpentry & Gates.

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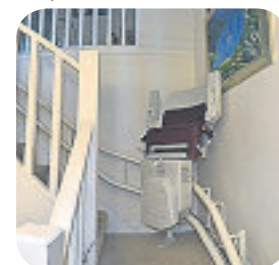
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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

**Deadly Daycare, Channel 5, 3.20pm**

A divorcee suspects nursery staff of mistreating her young daughter. When the girl's increasingly awkward behaviour arouses suspicion, the mother plants a hidden camera on the premises and discovers why the owner may hold a grudge against her. Thriller, starring Kayla Ewell, Christy Carlson Romano and Bryce Johnson. Edited for daytime broadcast. (2014)

TUESDAY

**Missing Daughter, Channel 5, 3.20pm**

A couple hire a nanny to care for their adopted daughter, but the woman turns out to be someone from the husband's past intent on wrecking their marriage and lives. Thriller, starring Wes Brown, Austin Highsmith, Erin Cahill and Valerie Azlynn. Edited for daytime broadcast. (2017)

WEDNESDAY

**Framed for Murder: A Fixer Upper Mystery, Channel 5, 3.15pm**

A renovator working on a 19th-century home suspects foul play when the resident of the house next door is found dead. Light-hearted mystery, starring Jewel Kilcher. Edited for daytime broadcast. (2017)



The Artist, Wednesday, BBC1, 11.45pm

**The Artist, BBC1, 11.45pm**

A 1920s movie actor gives an actress her big break, but his career suffers with the advent of sound. Oscar-winning silent drama, starring Jean Dujardin and Berenice Bejo. (2011)

THURSDAY

**Fatal Defense, Channel 5, 3.15pm**

A woman signs up for self-defence classes. However, her handsome instructor soon develops a frightening obsession with her. Thriller, with Ashley Scott. (2017)

FRIDAY

**Shanghai Knights, BBC1, 11.05pm**

A Chinese sheriff and a reformed bandit hunt for a killer on the murky streets of Victorian London. Martial arts comedy sequel, starring Jackie Chan, Owen Wilson and Aidan Gillen. (2003)

# Getting the inside story of a terrifying time for Britain

Over the space of four months in spring and summer last year, four terrorist attacks took place in the UK that would change the lives of hundreds of people forever.

This 90-minute documentary, featuring accounts from witnesses and members of the emergency services who were first on the scene, tells the dramatic story of each attack, remembering those who lost their lives and hearing from those who survived.

The atrocities began in on March 22, when Khalid Masood drove a hire car across Westminster Bridge in Central London, killing four pedestrians – Kurt Cochran, Leslie Rhodes, Aysha Frade and Andreea Cristea – and injuring dozens more.

After crashing his vehicle into railings close to Westminster Tube station, Masood ran into Parliament Square and fatally stabbed police officer Keith Palmer, who was posthumously awarded the George Medal, the second highest award for gallantry 'not in the face of the enemy'.

The attack, which lasted just 82 seconds, came to an end when Masood was fatally shot in the chest by an armed officer.

Exactly two months later, 22 people were killed when suicide bomber Salman Abedi detonated a homemade device laden with metal nuts as shrapnel in the lobby of Manchester Arena at the end of an Ariana Grande pop concert.

More than 200 people were injured in the deadliest terror attack on British soil since the 7/7 bombings in London in 2005.

The youngest victim, Saffie Roussos, was killed after becoming separated from her mum and sister at the venue. She was just eight years old.

Terror struck again in the capital the following month when three men drove a van into pedestrians on London Bridge before getting out and running into Borough Market.

Rachid Redouane, Khuram Butt and Youssef Zaghlol – who were all wearing fake explosive vests – started stabbing people with long

knives as horrified revellers ran away and tried to barricade themselves inside bars and restaurants.

Eight people were killed, with armed police shooting the three attackers dead just eight minutes after the first emergency calls are made.

Then, just 16 days later, another man, Makram Ali, died and several other people were injured when a van was driven into a group of Muslim worshippers outside a mosque in Finsbury Park, North London.

The vehicle hit pedestrians as they are leaving Ramadan night prayers around midnight.

Dad-of-four Darren Osborne, 47, from Cardiff, was subsequently charged with terrorism-related murder and attempted murder.

He was jailed for life at Woolwich Crown Court last month.

Last year has been dubbed 'Britain's Year Of Terror', and although the country still lives under the shadow of these attacks, this touching documentary shows there is hope.



Four Days That Shook Britain, Thursday, ITV, 9pm

# BEST OF THE REST

WEDNESDAY

**Saving the British Bulldog BBC1, 9pm**

The British bulldog is an iconic animal. It appears on memorabilia connected to our nation, and yet it's in trouble - and it's all our fault. Well, sort of. An obsession with creating the 'perfect' look for these beloved dogs has caused them to be over bred for years, resulting in serious health problems. At the start of the year, vets launched a nationwide campaign urging prospective dog owners to think twice about buying flat-faced breeds such as bulldogs. In this documentary, comedian, actress and all-round dog-lover Catherine Tate finds out more about the issue, examining the latest scientific research, which suggests controversial ways to help the breed, and ask a Kennel Club representative if they're doing enough to lend a hand.

**The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story BBC2, 9pm**

Former Glee star Darren Criss continues to shine in this

compelling slice of fact-based Miami vice centring on Andrew Cunanan. This week, TV personality and entrepreneur Marilyn Miglin returns home from a business trip to discover that her husband, Chicago real estate tycoon Lee Miglin, is missing. The police are quickly on the case to piece together the events, while Marilyn shapes the media story.

Fans of MASH should look out for Mike Farrell in a supporting role, while Transparent star Judith Light lends able support.

THURSDAY

**Still Game**

**BBC1, 9.30pm**

The news that the local undertaker has died and a creepy replacement has moved into town causes much commotion among the Clansman regulars.

Nobody quite knows what to make of the new arrival, with Isa spreading



Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago, Friday, BBC2, 9pm

stories that he could be the Grim Reaper himself. And despite their initial bravado, Jack and Victor are spooked when the man himself turns up in the pub, so they decide to find out who this mysterious new figure really is. Comedy, written by and starring Ford Kiernan and Greg Hemphill, with Jane McCarry, Bruce Morton, Gavin Mitchell and Sanjeev Kohli.

FRIDAY

**Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago BBC2, 9pm**

Last year, Debbie McGee showed off her twinkie toes on Strictly Come Dancing, but her feet are going to take even more punishment in this new series, which sees her and six other celebrities putting on their backpacks and walking boots to tackle the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage. The ancient 780km path across northern Spain to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela and the shrine of St James usually takes at least a month to walk, but as Debbie and her fellow celebs actor Neil Morrissey, comedian Ed Byrne, singer Heather Small, priest Kate Bottley, journalist Raphael Rowe and TV presenter JJ Chalmers have just 15 days in which to complete it, they will travel some of it by minibus. But they will still be doing plenty of walking, as well as reflecting on whether a medieval pilgrimage has any relevance in the modern day.

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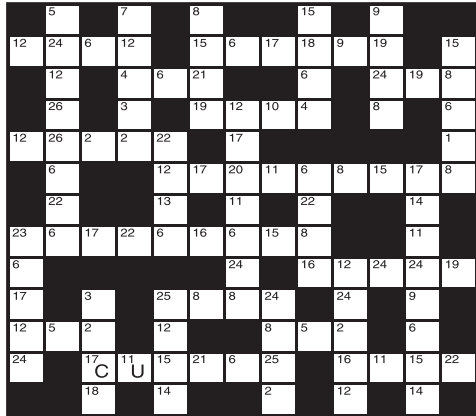


## BRAIN GYM

No.470

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
B	M	C	K	N	E	W	R	D	X	Q	T	V													
I	Z	U	L	F	P	S	H	J	A	Y	G	O													

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

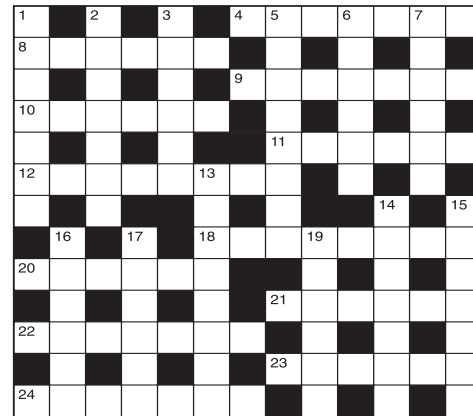
## Cryptic Clues:

## Across

4. Equitable method on the golf course? (7)
8. Understanding about a boy (6)
9. The pretentious fellow is out of bed to begin with (7)
10. Italian can't be bothered about us (6)
11. Did a staggering dance? (6)
12. This material makes part of the body atrophy (8)
18. Obese, and with a roll, he believes what will be will be (8)
20. Succeed in making the fellow look older (6)
21. He's used to slippery affairs (6)
22. Desperate position in narrow channel (7)
23. Nine to chant (6)
24. Article on a divine finish in supplement (7)

## Down

1. Speech is nothing to charge deserter with (7)
2. Father's judicious journey (7)
3. Kill graduate for his estate (6)
5. Father is torn both ways, it would seem (8)
6. Preferably desert the female (6)
7. Concurred it is a deadly sin (6)
13. Beaten by achievement, indeed (8)
14. Fit coin into story (7)
15. Began to recognize Edward as a top actor (7)
16. With rugs entangled in thick mass (6)
17. Rag about how old vehicle building is (6)
19. Making a request from the throne (6)



## Quick Clues:

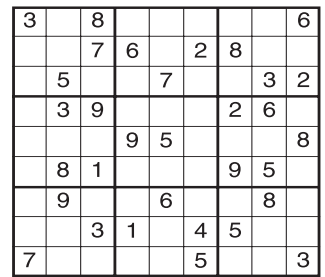
## Across

4. Diversity (7)
8. Believed (6)
9. Narrative (7)
10. Puma (6)
11. Thorny (6)
12. Contribute (8)
18. Begin (8)
20. Hue (6)
21. Hit (6)
22. Funny (7)
23. Hold back (6)
24. Long (7)

## Down

1. Idea (7)
2. Appetising (7)
3. Leave (6)
5. Habituate (8)
6. Satirical (6)
7. Suffused (6)
13. Intrude (8)
14. Brutal (7)
15. Enfeeble (7)
16. Churlish (6)
17. Advent (6)
19. Murmur (6)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS &gt;

5	2	9	3	4	1	7	8	6
7	6	3	8	2	5	1	4	9
1	4	8	9	6	7	5	2	3
6	8	4	1	5	9	3	7	2
3	7	2	4	8	6	9	5	1
9	1	5	7	3	2	4	6	8
2	9	6	5	7	3	8	1	4
8	3	7	6	1	4	2	9	5
4	5	1	2	9	8	6	3	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Investments; 9 Rip; 10 Trenchant; 11 Juror; 13 Student; 14 Cruise; 16 Merino; 18 Indiana; 19 Sonic; 20 Numerator; 21 Tap; 22 Snow leopard. Down: 2 Nap; 3 Eater; 4 Theism; 5 Exclude; 6 Tragedian; 7 Projection; 8 Stethoscope; 12 Roundsman; 15 Sparrow; 17 Battle; 19 Strip; 21 Tar. QUICK - Across: 1 Suppression; 9 Ewe; 10 Guarantee; 11 Enemy; 13 Expense; 14 Escort; 16 Entomb; 18 Impulse; 19 Tutor; 20 Universal; 21 Opt; 22 Incassantly. Down: 2 Use; 3 Pygmy; 4 Erased; 5 Sharpen; 6 Out-and-out; 7 Deleterious; 8 Reverberate; 12 Exception; 15 Relieve; 17 Versus; 19 Talon; 21 Oil.

## Quiz

1. What is the USA's equivalent of the Epsom Derby?
2. Who was the first woman, according to Greek mythology?
3. Which former Middle East empire's capital was Nineveh?
4. What sort of creature is a bluetongue?
5. Which Australian port is at the mouth of the Swan river?
6. Which martial art's name is Japanese for 'gentle way'?
7. Of what is the Sequoiadendron giganteum the world's largest?
8. Which war opened with the Battle of Lexington and Concord?
9. What was the Democratic Republic of the Congo called from 1971-97?
10. What was the BBC's teletext service called?

## Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Bradley Stone; 2 Florin; 3 Élysée Palace; 4 Coconut; 5 Aneurin Bevan; 6 San Marino; 7 Jacobins; 8 Cheetah; 9 Wailing Wall; 10 Order of the Garter.  
Niner: PULSATING

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

46785365  
1232485  
9248

gives a leader,  
gives a second leader,  
gives a wise man.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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# PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY  
GUIDE TO HOME  
BUYING AND  
LETTING

## Modern family home lies in a popular location

A very well presented modern family home in Bloxwich Road North, Willenhall lies in a popular location, close to local amenities, shops and schools.

It is for sale through Webbs at £182,500.

Its accommodation briefly comprises of a through entrance hallway, a guest WC, a lounge, a dining room, a kitchen, a conservatory, three bedrooms, a re-fitted bathroom and a re-fitted en-suite to the master. Outside there are landscaped gardens and a driveway. In more detail the through hallway has the guest WC off.

The lounge has wood flooring and windows to the front and stairs off.

The dining room, which also has wood flooring, has patio doors to the conservatory. The conservatory has French doors to the garden, tiled flooring and a door to the kitchen.

Having a window to the rear, the kitchen has wall, base and drawer units in a modern light-wood-effect, work surfaces over, an inset single drainer sink, an integral oven, hob with an extractor hood over and ample appliance space.

The master bedroom has views over the frontage of the property and a re-fitted en-suite shower room. This has a window to the front, a shower cubicle, low level WC and a wash hand basin set on a vanity unit.

Bedroom two has a window to the rear elevation, while bedroom three has a window to the front.

The re-fitted bathroom is positioned to the rear of this home. Its suite comprises of a panelled bath with a shower over, a low level WC and a wash hand basin set on vanity unit. Outside, the landscaped garden has paved patio areas, bedding areas, an Astro-turf lawn and is fully enclosed with panel fencing and a gated access to front driveway.

Established & Trusted since 1994, Webbs Estate Agents is an independently owned family business built on reputation and service. Their experienced sales team offer expertise gained from extensive market knowledge. Buyers and sellers can expect to receive excellent market intelligence and strategic marketing advice.

WILLENHALL £182,500



### TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Webbs

TEL: 01922 663399

EMAIL: [sales@webbsestateagents.co.uk](mailto:sales@webbsestateagents.co.uk)

### KEY FEATURES

Stunning family home

Very well presented

Re-fitted bathroom & en-suite

Guest WC

3 bedrooms



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### Well presented family home up for sale with no chain

This Barratt Homes-build immaculately presented three-bedroom family home with a garage and parking to the rear in Bell Lane, Bloxwich, was built in the "Maidstone" design.

It is for sale through Goodchilds at £149,950 with no chain. This charming property is on 'The Bridles' development close to Bloxwich High Street and benefits from the remaining NHBC Warranty.

Internally the property is presented to an excellent standard and

**BLOXWICH**  
**£149,950**

comprises an entrance hall with a guest cloakroom/WC, a lounge, a contemporary-style kitchen/diner, three bedrooms, an en-suite shower room and a main bathroom, a rear garage and an allocated parking space to the rear. The lack of chain makes it ideal for a quick completion.

Call 01922 405 699.



### 90 BURLAND AVENUE, WOLVERHAMPTON

Within a popular location, spacious semi, Two reception, kitchen, utility area, three bedrooms, bathroom, garaging facility, off-road parking, rear garden. EPC: tba

**Guide: £90,000 / £95,000**

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 9th & 10th MARCH @ 10.30 a.m.

### BUILDING PLOT 93 GOLDTHORN HILL, WOLVERHAMPTON.

Large plot with Planning Permission for erection of a three bedroomed detached house, good location, generous plot depth.

**Guide: £85,000 / £95,000**



### 38 PENDEFORD AVENUE, CLAREGATE, WOLVERHAMPTON

Impressive detached ready for improvement, wide hall, two reception, large kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, two garages, store, long rear garden with return frontage approx. 180ft. to Aldersley Avenue EPC: E45

**Guide: £155,000 / £165,000**

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 9th & 10th MARCH @ 11.15 a.m.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Viewing of all Lots at own risk. Viewings are at the times specified so, should you arrive late, you may find your viewing time is limited or that we have moved on in order to maintain the time schedule.

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## AUCTION

**Monday 26th March 2018 7pm Prompt**  
**at BAR SPORT PREMIER SUITE**  
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**Cannock, WS11 1BJ**

Address	Wednesday 14th & 21st March	Saturday 10th, 17th & 24th March
Port Lane Cottage, Port Lane, Chillington, Brewood	9.30am	9.30am
32 & 32a Princess Street Chadsmoor, Cannock	10.30am	10.30am
Land to Rear of 77 Old Fallow Road, Cannock	11.00am	11.00am
4 Jones Lane, Slitting Mill	11.45am	11.45am
125 Rugeley Road, Hazel Slade	12.00pm	12.00pm
Land at Wandon Cross, Rugeley	12.45pm	12.45pm
Freehold Land Adj to 44 Huntington Terrace Road, Cannock	By calling on site with Catalogue to hand	
2 New Street, Merry Hill, Wolverhampton		
41 Albert Road, Halesowen		
19 Smith Road, Walsall		
Contact Auctioneers		

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### LOT 1

**4 JONES LANE,  
SLITTING MILL,  
WS12 2UJ**

**FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION**

- ◆ Considerably improved and extended
- ◆ Four bedroomed detached house
- ◆ Located in much sought after hamlet within Cannock Chase
- ◆ Close to facilities at Rugeley, Cannock and Stafford
- ◆ Gas fired central heating, fully double glazed
- ◆ With planning permission to extend
- ◆ EPC rating D (64)

**GUIDE PRICE £340,000 - £360,000**

**LOT 5**  
**PARCEL OF FREEHOLD LAND FORMING PART OF VACANT SITE ADJ 44 HUNTINGTON TERRACE ROAD, CANNOCK**  
**FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION**  
◆ Roughly rectangular shaped parcel of freehold land  
◆ With frontage of 3.5m to Huntington Terrace Road and long return depth there from of about 41m  
**GUIDE PRICE £5,000+**



### LOT 9

**32 & 32A PRINCESS STREET, CHADSMOOR, CANNOCK, WS11 5JS**  
**FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION**

- ◆ Semi detached house arranged as two self contained flats
- ◆ Good size site
- ◆ Predominantly double glazed
- ◆ Ideal buy to let
- ◆ EPC rating number 32 - TBC
- ◆ EPC rating number 32a - TBC
- ◆ EPC rating number 32a - TBC

**GUIDE PRICE £75,000+**

**LOT 6**  
**FREEHOLD LAND FRONTING COLLIERY ROAD, RUGELEY**  
**10.63 acres or thereabouts**  
**FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION**  
◆ A good size parcel of freehold land comprising part pasture and part mixed woodland  
◆ Situated on the land is a building of improved construction providing storage  
◆ Ideally located for riding out onto Cannock Chase  
◆ Conveniently located for Rugeley, Hednesford and Cannock  
**GUIDE PRICE £5,500+**



### LOT 10

**125 RUGELEY ROAD, HAZEL SLADE, WS12 0PG**

**FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION**

- ◆ Detached bungalow (potential for re-development subject to planning permission)
- ◆ 2/3 bedrooms
- ◆ Detached garage
- ◆ Double glazed
- ◆ Gas central heating (No tested)
- ◆ In need of modernisation
- ◆ EPC rating E (53)

**GUID PRICE £200,000-£250,000**

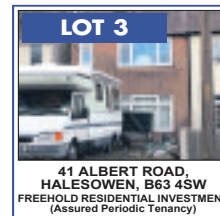


### LOT 2

**2 NEW STREET, MERRY HILL, WOLVERHAMPTON, WV3 7NW**  
**FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT (Regulated Tenancy)**

- ◆ Located in popular residential area
- ◆ Semi detached house
- ◆ Close to neighbourhood shops
- ◆ Producing £4,680 per annum
- ◆ EPC rating F (27)

**GUIDE PRICE £88,000 - £94,000**



### LOT 3

**41 ALBERT ROAD, HALESOWEN, B63 4SW**  
**FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT (Assured Periodic Tenancy)**

- ◆ Traditional semi detached house
- ◆ Brick render and tile construction
- ◆ Convenient for Halesowen town centre
- ◆ Producing £5,760 P.A.
- ◆ EPC rating G (19)

**GUIDE PRICE £85,000 - £95,000**

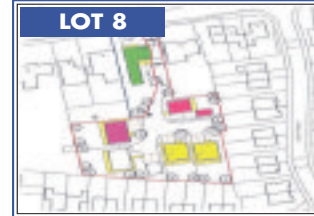


### LOT 4

**19 SMITH ROAD, WALSALL, WS2 9DJ**  
**FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT (Assured Periodic Tenancy)**

- ◆ Traditional built inner terraced house
- ◆ Brick and slate construction
- ◆ Convenient for Walsall town centre and junction 9 of M6 motorway
- ◆ Producing £5,200 per annum
- ◆ EPC rating G (20)

**GUIDE PRICE £70,000 - £75,000**



### LOT 8

**LAND REAR OF 77 OLD FALLOW ROAD, CANNOCK, WS11 5QL**

**FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION**

- ◆ Residential redevelopment site extending to 0.22 Ha or thereabouts
- ◆ Having O.P.P for the erection of 5 detached houses
- ◆ Planning application no: 15/0410 Cannock Chase Council

**GUIDE PRICE £275,000 - £300,000**



### LOT 11

**PORT LANE COTTAGE, PORT LANE, CHILLINGTON, BREWOOD, WV9 5BH**

**FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION**

- ◆ A rare opportunity to acquire a detached cottage with benefit of planning permission for two storey extension to the rear
- ◆ Occupying grounds extending to approx 0.267 acres
- ◆ Set in rural position on the edge of the historic Chillington Estate with access to walks along the upper and lower avenue and shropshire union canal
- ◆ EPC rating G (1)

**GUIDE PRICE £250,000+**





## Impressive home is up for sale with no chain

**WALSALL**  
**£119,950**

Ready to move into and just perfect for a first time buyer or investor, this charming three-bedroom end of terrace house in Prince Street, Walsall, is for sale through [loveyourpostcode.com](http://loveyourpostcode.com) at £119,950 with no chain.

This impressive property, which comes with a rear garden, was renovated in 2017 to a modern and neutral finish introducing natural light throughout.

Internal accommodation is finished a great standard with emulsion walls and new wooden floors.

It has a great sized front reception room, a second reception room that would be perfect as a dining room. Following on is the kitchen which is fitted with clean white floor and wall mounted units making this a modern and practical space for family living. Towards the end of the house is the family bathroom



which is neat and has a three-piece suite, emulsion walls and tiles.

On the first floor are three bedrooms, all being finished to a modern and clean standard. Two of which are double and one is of a medium size. There is a first floor WC that completes this floor.

The added benefits include a large lean-to area to the side of the property. "The potential is excellent to extend the kitchen into this space making a spacious kitchen/diner," said a [loveyourpostcode.com](http://loveyourpostcode.com) spokesman. Gas central heating and double-glazed windows complete this property.

Prince Street has easy access to the Walsall Canals, Walsall Manor Hospital, Wolverhampton Road, Walsall Train Station and Walsall Town Centre.

Contact [loveyourpostcode.com](http://loveyourpostcode.com) on 0800 862 0870.



## Modern-style semi-detached in a popular cul-de-sac

**BLOXWICH**  
**£175,000**

>>>

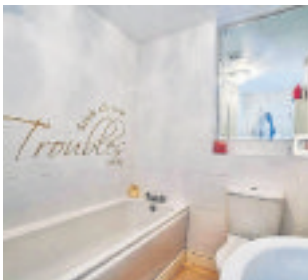
A stunning family home, this modern style semi-detached property in Farmdale Grove, Bloxwich, Walsall, is for sale through [Webbs estate agents](http://Webbs estate agents) at £175,000.

Its accommodation, which is beautifully presented throughout, briefly comprises a through entrance hallway, a guest WC, a breakfast kitchen, a lounge/diner, play room, three bedrooms, a bathroom and an en-suite. Externally there is a private driveway, garage and gardens.

In more detail the through entrance hallway has stairs off and a guest WC. The breakfast kitchen has a window to the front, an oven, hob with extractor hood over, dishwasher and fridge freezer and a breakfast bar.

The lounge/diner has French doors leading to the garden and a door to playroom.

To book that all important viewing, call [Webbs](http://Webbs) on 01922 663399.



## Well-presented three-storey town house is now available

**WILLENHALL**  
**£160,000**

<<<

This modern four-bedroom town house in Tameside Close, Willenhall, has well-presented living accommodation over three floors.

Having four bedrooms, it is for sale through [L&S Prestige estate agents](http://L&S Prestige estate agents) at £160,000.

Its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hall, a guest WC, a modern fitted kitchen/diner, a first floor lounge and a master bedroom with an en-suite, two second floor bedrooms and a family bathroom.

The property also benefits from double glazing and gas central heating throughout. Outside there is driveway parking in front of an integral garage and an enclosed garden to the rear.

The property is well situated for easy access to road links.

To book a viewing, contact [L&S Prestige](http://L&S Prestige) on 01902 606595.





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The Chronicle Thursday, March 8, 2018



#### Par Court, Bloxwich

- Impressive Detached Family Home
- Five Bedrooms
- Open Plan Living Space
- Upgraded Fixtures & Fittings
- Granite Kitchen Worktops
- Excellent Energy Efficiency Rating (B-84)

£439,950



#### Werneth Grove, Turnberry Estate

- Extended Detached Family Home
- Four Bedrooms
- Main Lounge
- Sitting Room and Dining Area
- Conservatory
- EPC - TBC

£325,000



#### Stamping Way, Bloxwich

- Immaculately Presented Town House
- Contemporary Style Decor
- Three/Four Bedrooms
- Fitted Wardrobes to the Master Bedroom
- Rear Garage and Parking Space
- EPC - C (80)

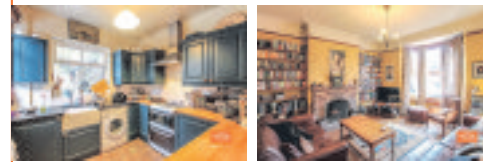
O.I.E.O £200,000



#### Bentley Lane, Reedswood

- Detached Three Storey House
- Two Reception Rooms
- Extended Breakfast Kitchen
- Three Good Sized Bedrooms
- Large Family Bathroom
- EPC - TBC

£189,950



#### Persehouse Street, Walsall

- Victorian Semi-Detached House
- Two Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Many Original Features
- Gas Central Heating
- Open Fireplaces
- Town Centre Location
- Extensive Facilities & Amenities Close-by
- Permit Parking
- EPC - TBC

£200,000



#### Griffins Crescent, Walsall

- 'The Kingsford' Design by Taylor Wimpey
- Popular Saddlers Brook Development
- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Easy Access to Local Towns and the M6
- Granite Tiled Flooring in Hall & Kitchen
- EPC - C (79)

£185,000



#### Links Court, Turnberry Estate

- Exclusive Over 60's Development
- Secure Gated Development
- Parking Space Included
- Luxury Fixtures and Fittings
- NEFF Appliances
- EPC - B (82)



£169,950



#### Harden Close, Leamore

- Modern Four Bedroom Detached
- Three Storey
- Four Good Sized Bedrooms
- Two Bathrooms
- Ground Floor WC
- EPC - C (75)



£155,000

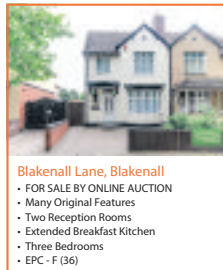


#### Station Road, Rushall

- Modern Taylor Wimpey Built Town House
- Two Double Bedrooms
- En-Suite to Master Bedroom
- Downstairs W.C.
- Rear Allocated Parking
- EPC - B (85)



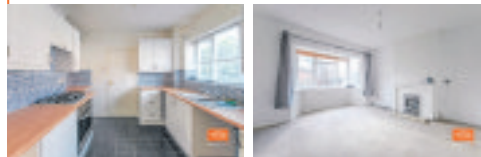
£137,500



#### Blakenall Lane, Blakenall

- FOR SALE BY ONLINE AUCTION
- Many Original Features
- Two Reception Rooms
- Extended Breakfast Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- EPC - F (36)

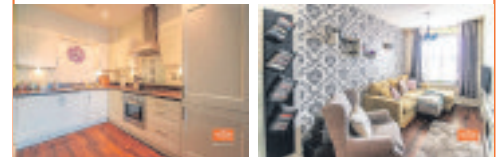
GUIDE £114,000



#### Neath Road, Mossley

- Three Bedroom Mid-Terraced House
- Popular Mossley Area
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge with Bay Window
- Front and Rear Garden
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Ideal First Time Purchase
- No Upward Chain
- Must Be Viewed
- EPC - C (71)

£105,000



#### Smiths Flour Mill, Walsall

- Immaculate Contemporary Style Apartment
- Set in the Original Flour Mill
- Fitted Kitchen
- Modern Bathroom
- Secure Gated Development
- Allocated Parking Space
- Easy Access to the M6 motorway
- Viewing Essential
- EPC - D (67)

£85,000



#### Portsea Street, Leamore

- Extended Semi-Detached House
- Lounge, Dining Area & Extended Kitchen
- Ground Floor WC
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Gas Central Heating
- Very Low Energy Bills (EPC Rating B-90)

£115,000



#### Wenlock Gardens, Leamore

- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached House
- Lounge with French Doors
- Fitted Kitchen
- Ground Floor WC
- Gas Central Heating
- EPC - D (68)

£110,000



#### Clarendon Street, Bloxwich

- Well Presented Period Style Property
- Two Reception Rooms
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Three Bedrooms
- EPC - E (52)

O.I.E.O £110,000



#### Sheridan Close, Pleck

- Two Bedroom Bungalow
- Available to Over 55's
- No Chain
- Communal Gardens
- Communal Parking Area
- EPC - C (69)

£85,000



#### Church Place, Blakenall

- FOR SALE BY ONLINE AUCTION
- Three Bedrooms
- Entrance Hallway
- Kitchen/Dining Room
- Ground Floor WC
- EPC - TBC



GUIDE £67,500



#### Millsum House, Walsall

- Two bedroom Upper Floor Flat
- Close To Town Centre
- Lounge with Balcony
- Communal Parking
- Double Glazing
- EPC - C (71)



£58,995

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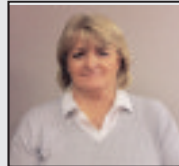


# Tel: 01922 404446

212 High Street, Bloxwich, WS3 3LA



Paul Marrion - Partner



Kathy Marrion - Partner

Energy Rating - C

NEW

Virola Court  
Bloxwich

- Spacious Penthouse Apartment
- Allocated Parking
- Heated & Double Glazed
- Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen
- 2 Double Bedrooms
- En-Suite, Family Bathroom
- Communal Gardens
- No Onward Chain

£115,000

Energy Rating - B

NEW

Station View  
Walsall

- Immaculate apartment
- Ultra modern design and style
- Open plan lounge/dining kitchen with appliances
- 2 good bedrooms, bathroom/WC and en-suite
- Communal Grounds
- Viewing Essential
- ENERGY RATING B
- No Onward Chain

£99,950

Energy Rating - TBC

NEW

Wood Lane  
Pelsall

- Semi-Detached House
- PVCu Double Glazing (where specified), Gas Central
- Front Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Utility Area, Downsta
- Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms
- Driveway
- Rear Garden
- No Onward Chain

£145,000

Energy Rating - TBC

NEW

Field Road  
Bloxwich

- Extended End Town House
- Gas Central Heated & Double Glazed
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Kitchen, Utility/Guests WC
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Driveway
- Rear Garden

£140,000

Energy Rating - TBC

NEW

Victoria Avenue  
Bloxwich

- Gas Central Heated & Double Glazed
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Kitchen,
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Driveway
- Rear Garden
- Must Be Viewed

£259,950

Energy Rating - TBC

NEW

Lichfield Road  
Shelfield

- End town house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Dining kitchen, lounge
- 3 bedrooms, shower room/WC
- Gardens and parking
- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- Must Be Viewed

£130,000

Energy Rating - D

NEW

Station Place  
Bloxwich

- End Town House
- Gas Centrally Heated
- PVCu Double Glazed
- Lounge, Kitchen
- 3 Bedroom
- Conservatory
- Bathroom/WC
- Parking & Gardens

£130,000

Energy Rating - D

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- ✓ Sales Negotiation

Energy Rating - B

NEW

Ashbourne Road  
Bloxwich

- End town house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Front reception room, rear dining room, kitchen
- 2 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Parking and gardens
- Gardens
- Must Be Viewed

£120,000

Energy Rating - B

Mattesley Court  
Bloxwich

- Over 55 years of age Development
- 40% Ownership
- Second floor apartment
- Residents lounge, restaurant
- Hair salon, shop, laundry room
- 2 bedrooms, wet room/WC
- Fitted kitchen, lounge
- Ample parking and communal gardens

£35,000

Energy Rating - D

Bloxwich Road  
Walsall

- Traditional Mid Terraced House
- PVCu Double Glazed
- Gas Central Heating
- Two Reception Rooms
- Two Bedrooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Rear Garden & separate area giving secure off road

£110,000

Energy Rating - D

Stanley Street  
Bloxwich

- End Town House
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, dining kitchen
- 3 bedrooms
- bathroom/WC
- Parking, gardens
- workshop

£115,000

Energy Rating - E

Broad Lane  
Bloxwich

- Victorian end town house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- 2 reception rooms, kitchen
- 2 bedrooms
- bathroom/WC
- Low maintenance garden
- Detached garage to rear

£115,000

Energy Rating - D

Harden Close  
Walsall

- Semi detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, dining room, kitchen
- 3 bedrooms, shower room/WC
- Shower Room/WC
- Driveway
- Gardens

£135,000

Energy Rating - D

Darlaston Road  
Walsall

- Semi detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge/dining room, kitchen
- 2 bedrooms, shower room/WC
- Workshop
- Parking
- Gardens

£139,950

Energy Rating - D

Gurnard Close  
Coppice Farm

- Semi detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, kitchen
- 2 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Garage, driveway
- Gardens
- No Onward Chain

£145,000

Energy Rating - B

Penmire Grove  
Walsall

- Three Storey Town House
- PVCu double glazing & Gas Central Heating
- Fitted Kitchen
- Rear Lounge/Diner
- Three excellent sized Bedrooms
- (master with en-suite)
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden

£179,995

Energy Rating - D

Selsdon Road  
Turnberry

- Detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, kitchen, conservatory
- 2 bedrooms, shower room/WC
- Garage, carport
- Driveway
- Gardens

£189,950

Energy Rating - C

Lydford Road  
Bloxwich

- Detached Bungalow
- Immaculately Presented
- Gas Central Heating, PVCu double glazing.
- 2 Bedrooms, Lounge
- Breakfast kitchen, Conservatory
- Shower Room,
- Tandem Garage Driveway, Private Rear
- Gardens

£249,950

Energy Rating - C

Bealeys Close  
Bloxwich

- Modern Detached Family Home
- Small Exclusive Development
- Lounge, Dining Room, Study
- Fitted Breakfast Kitchen, Utility Room, Conserva
- Four Bedrooms,
- Ensuite Bathroom
- Family Bathroom,
- Detached Double Garage Driveway, Private Rear
- Garde

£320,000

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# auction HOUSE

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# 0121 289 3838

# Auction

Thursday 12th  
April 2018  
at 6.00pm Precisely

Banks's Stadium, Walsall  
Football Club, Bescot  
Crescent, Walsall, WS1 4SA

LOT  
TBC

**Birmingham Road  
Walsall**

**By appointment through auctioneers**



●Guide Price £240,000 PLUS

A truly substantial, late Victorian property offering spacious living accommodation, with a character and appeal seldom seen today. Occupying a most convenient situation with regular bus provision direct to Birmingham, together with ease of access on to all the regions motorways, the property will particularly suit the larger family or investment purchaser. The property has been well maintained by the current vendor, having recently installed Bathroom and Shower Room a recently refitted roof and newly installed gas boiler. The property affords gas central heating and demands viewing to appreciate the space and appeal within.

LOT  
TBC

**Burrowes Street  
Walsall**

**13th and 20th March 3pm**



Situated in a popular residential area within walking distance of the town centre this flat is just off the Walsall ring road which offers a great transport link to the M6. The property is in need of slight modernisation throughout and would ideally be suited towards an investor.

●Guide Price £59,000 PLUS

LOT  
TBC

**Thetford Road  
Birmingham**

**By appointment through the auctioneers**



●Guide Price £128,500 PLUS

A nicely presented three bedroom semi-detached home situated in a well regarded part of Great Barr. Accommodation briefly comprises lounge/diner, kitchen, three bedrooms and a bathroom.

LOT  
TBC

**Walsingham Street  
Walsall**

**12th and 19th March 10am**



●Guide Price £75,000 PLUS

This two bedroom terraced property is in need of little modernisation. The property is situated in a popular residential area within Chuckery and would make an ideal purchase for an investor.

LOT  
TBC

**Farmstead Close  
Walsall**

**By appointment through Auctioneers**



Set in a quiet cul-de-sac, this modern semi detached property offers an ideal opportunity for a first time buyer or investor who is prepared to put in a little work to tidy it up. With gas fired central heating, the property is conveniently located for all amenities and is set back from the road behind a lawned foregarden with long driveway.

●Guide Price £85,500 PLUS

LOT  
TBC

**102 Teddesley Street  
Walsall**

**12th and 19th March 11am**



●Guide Price £95,000 PLUS

Situated within walking distance of Walsall town centre this semi detached property is ideally located. The property is in need of modernisation throughout but holds a lot of potential for a prospective purchaser.

LOT  
TBC

**Dalby Road  
Walsall**

**By appointment through Auctioneers**



●Guide Price £85,000 PLUS

Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac, this modern semi detached property would make an ideal purchase for an investor or owner occupier. With the benefit of gas fired central heating and double glazing, the property offers potential for extension to the side.

LOT  
TBC

**Derwent Foundry  
Birmingham**

**By appointment through Auctioneers**



Situated in an extremely desirable residential area this 1 bedroom 3rd floor apartment is ideally suited towards an investor. The property requires very little modernisation and with all amenities close at hand it comprises: Accommodation Lounge (4.6m x 3.9m), Bedroom One (5m x 2.5m), Bathroom (2.2m x 1.9m), Additional Room (2.3m x 1.9m) Buyers Premium of £750.00 plus v.a.t. (£900.00 inc vat) will be charged for this lot

●Guide Price £145,000 PLUS

LOT  
TBC

**Rosamund Street  
Walsall**

**By appointment through Auctioneers**



●Guide Price £85,000 PLUS

Conveniently located in this popular residential area of Palfrey, this Victorian end terraced offers well planned and appointed living accommodation with the benefit of gas fired central heating and double glazing. Internal viewing is recommended to appreciate the accommodation.

LOT  
TBC

**Cherry Tree Avenue  
Walsall**

**12th and 19th March 10:30am**



●Guide Price £130,000 PLUS

Set in a prominent position behind a deep lawned foregarden, this traditionally styled semi detached property is situated in a highly sought after residential area and would make an ideal purchase for an owner occupier or investment. With the benefit of gas fired central heating and double glazing, the property offers well appointed, well planned and extended living accommodation. All amenities are close at hand and viewing is highly recommended.

LOT  
TBC

**Adelaide Street  
Brierley Hill**

**By appointment through Auctioneers**



Situated within a short distance of Brierley Hill centre, this traditionally styled Victorian mid terraced property is in need of full refurbishment and a bit of TLC. An ideal opportunity for investor/builder the property offers tremendous scope for further improvement for a buyer with the intention of re-sale or for letting.

●Guide Price £60,000 PLUS

LOT  
TBC

**Winchester Drive  
Birmingham**

**By appointment through auctioneers**



This three storey terraced property is ideally located just off the M6 and M42 which offers fantastic transport links. The property is in need of slight modernisation and would ideally be suited towards an investor.

●Guide Price £95,000 PLUS

●Guides are provided as an indication of each seller's minimum expectation. They are not necessarily figures which a property will sell for and may change at any time prior to the auction. Each property will be offered subject to a Reserve (a figure below which the Auctioneer cannot sell the property during the auction) which we expect will be set within the Guide Range or no more than 10% above a single figure Guide



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- EnSuite
- Dining Room
- Viewing Essential

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**FEATHERSTONE**  
PENDERALL CLOSE

**SSTC**  
Similar Required

- Modern Semi
- Kitchen/Diner
- Corner Plot
- 2 Bedrooms
- Hallway
- Bathroom
- Lounge
- Private Driveway

**\$140,000**

**NEW** **BLOXWICH**  
CRESSWELL CRESCENT

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- 3 Bed Semi
- Driveway
- Hall, Lounge
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- Kitchen
- Hallway
- 3 Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Bathroom
- Dining Room
- No Chain

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**GREAT WYRLEY**  
LONG LANE

**SSTC**  
Similar Required

- Traditional Home
- Shower Room
- Lounge/Diner
- Rear Garden
- Extended Kitchen
- Open Views
- 2 Bedrooms
- Viewing Essential

**\$139,950**

**NEW** **WILLENHALL**  
JOHN RILEY DRIVE

- Semi Detached
- Utility
- Hallway
- Garage
- Lounge
- Garden
- Refitted Kitchen
- No Chain

**\$145,000**

**NEW** **BLOXWICH**  
STANLEY STREET

- Semi Detached
- 3 Bedrooms
- Hallway, WC
- Bathroom
- Lounge Diner
- Rear Garden
- Breakfast Kitchen
- No Chain

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- 2 Leisure Time
- 3 Home & Services
- 4 Pets & Animals
- 5 Business & Farming
- 6 Property
- 7 Jobs
- 8 Motoring
- 9 Local Information
- 10 Personals

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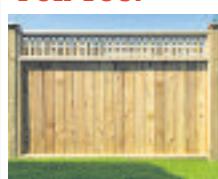
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Geoff seen in conversation last March during a special 'Smile for Joel' fundraising event which took place at The Saddlers



Geoff celebrates scoring the second goal against Portsmouth on August 20, 2005, after the Baggies stayed up



During his time at Birmingham City, against Fulham, Geoff with Rufus Brevett



Geoff in 2009, with the famous back page of THAT season, at the Hawthorns

# Geoff's on target with charity to help homeless

**HIS football career started out playing on the streets – now Geoff Horsfield is helping people get off the streets with his charity venture.**

After his retirement the Baggies hero has made it his goal to help those in need across the West Midlands.

His charity the Geoff Horsfield Foundation, which was set up in 2016, provides 'quality, safe and secure supported accommodation' for vulnerable adults in the region.

It marks the latest step in a less than conventional career, which saw Geoff start as a bricklayer and toil in the lower leagues before making it big.

Geoff, now aged 44, also successfully battled testicular cancer in 2008 – defying doctors who predicted the disease would end his career.

The striker was certainly no ordinary footballer. And after hanging up his boots in 2013, Geoff has continued to prove he is an extraordinary man by focusing on charitable enterprises.

## Epidemic

Now he is aiming to help tackle homelessness in the West Midlands, and has returned to the bricklaying skills he learned before hitting the footballing big time.

The star personally renovates homes before new tenants – often from the streets – are moved in.

Geoff, who lives in Sutton Coldfield, said: "Homelessness around the country has become an epidemic.

"We're in 2018 and we've got cars that can park themselves but we've still got homeless people in the streets. If we can't help them there's something wrong.

"My aim is to get people off the streets and get them back into normality and normal society. We try to help them as much as possible.

"I thought with my name and the people I know I could help these people, and it's fantastic that people are coming forward and trying to help.

"Football makes the world go round."

The foundation's work also involves providing basic essentials such as food, clothes and sanitary towels for women.

Much of this relies on donations, often from foot-

## SPORTING FEATURE

By Steve Jones

**'My aim is to get people off the streets and get them back into normality and normal society.'**

ball fans far and wide that put their allegiances to one side.

"The generosity is overwhelming, it's been incredible," Geoff continued.

"There's more going on in the world than the badge on the shirt.

"It's nice that we can forget about the football. They have been absolutely fantastic, all the fans."

Geoff's footballing journey began in modest surroundings in his native Barnsley and he combined his playing with work as a bricklayer – a trade he has returned to through his charity work, renovating accommodation before tenants move in.

Looking back on his earliest footballing memories, Geoff said: "I was playing on the streets. I just naturally scored goals, 10 or 11 a game. I played Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning and it just took off.

"I was bricklaying and playing in the local leagues. My dad took me there to toughen me up a bit.

"All the lads I played with were 10 years older than me and they all had trades and offered me an apprenticeship with them.

"It set me in good stead for later life."

Geoff was Albion's top scorer when the Baggies were promoted to the Premier League at the end of the 2003/4 campaign – and they could probably do with his goals now as they battle relegation.

His career at the club peaked when he scored one of the most famous goals in their history to help preserve their top-flight status on the final day of the 2004/05 season.

"Coming on and scoring that goal, I think that's

got to be one of the highlights of my career alongside getting promotion under Gary Megson," he said.

In 2008 Geoff overcame testicular cancer and shortly afterwards resumed his professional career, a testament to his strength of character.

He admits helping the homeless is a million miles away from his career on the pitch.

"It is hugely different, but I wouldn't stop it for the world. I still watch out for my old teams but what I'm doing now is a full-time job," Geoff said.

"It's totally different from football, it makes me realise how lucky I was to be a professional football player."

He also moved to defend his peers, who can be accused of doing little to help others.

Geoff said: "I don't know if that [accusation] is true.

"There are a lot of footballers who do it and don't publicise it. I publicise it to raise awareness of people being homeless.

"I think footballers are tarred with the wrong brush at times, a lot of them do good."

## Fundraiser

A charity night which is coming up soon will help raise funds for Geoff's Foundation.

As well as Albion fan and British middleweight champion Tommy Langford, some of Geoff's former Baggies team mates, including Darren Moore and Paul Robinson, are planning to attend the fundraiser.

"We've always kept close, I'll do anything for them and they'll do anything for me," he said.

"We're trying to raise as much money as we can; it really will be a good night."

The event will take place at Birmingham's Botanical Gardens on Friday, March 23. Entertainment includes live music and a DJ, a drag artist, and a comedienne.

Catering will also be provided by award-winning Indian restaurant Itihaas.

An auction taking place on the night includes a match day box at the Hawthorns, worth £4,000.

Tickets are available through online ticketing outlet Eventbrite and are priced at £65 per person plus booking fees, with VIP options also available.

Meanwhile donations can also be made to the Geoff Horsfield Foundation at JustGiving.com.

## Back-to-back Sunday games for Baggies

ALBION are scheduled to play back-to-back Sunday games in April after two of their fixtures were moved to be broadcast live on Sky Sports.

The Baggies' trip to Old Trafford to face Manchester United is now at 4pm on Sunday, April 15, while the home game against Liverpool a week later is scheduled for 2.15pm on Sunday, April 22.

However, if Liverpool reach the semi-finals of the Champions League that match may have to be moved again.

Those two games represent the start of a difficult run-in for the Baggies. There will only be 12 points to play for after the United game and nine points available after the Liverpool game.

Meanwhile, Villa's trip to Norwich City on Saturday April 7 has been moved forward – just 24 hours after being moved back. Sky had moved the game from 3pm to a 5.30pm kick-off. However, it has now been rescheduled again and will kick-off at 12.30pm. The decision was made to accommodate Manchester City versus Manchester United at 5.30pm.

## Deals hampered by sell-on clause – Troy

EX-WALSALL forward Troy Deeney admits the sell-on clause negotiated by Saddlers when he joined Watford has become a transfer 'sticking point'.

The 29-year-old striker was a £16million target for Albion in January, before the Baggies opted to sign Daniel Sturridge on loan from Liverpool.

Walsall would receive 20 per cent of any profit above the £500,000 they sold Deeney to the Hornets for in 2010 – and the forward believes it has put potential suitors off.

"There's times where it has become a sticking point," said Deeney. "People go like 'We're going to pay X amount of money' but then Watford say 'We've got to give X amount to Walsall'. There's been times where I've tried to speak to (Saddlers chairman) Jeff Bonser and try to, you know, be sensible.

"But I understand a million per cent from his point of view, he's like 'We asked for this, this is what we're getting'. It's just business at the end of the day but I think that ship is long sailed now."

## Online service just the ticket for fans

WOLVERHAMPTON Speedway have launched a new online ticket service for supporters ahead of the 2018 season. Supporters can now purchase tickets for home meetings in advance using wolverhamptonsspeedway.co/boxoffice

The service is operated in conjunction with ticketarena.co.uk

The move gives fans added convenience and will speed entry up on arrival at the turnstiles as the Parrys International Wolves battle for SGB Premiership glory. Opening night at Monmore is on Monday March 26 against a powerhouse Poole side.

Press and practice is open to the public from 6.30 on Monday March 19 with the popular pre-season talk-in at the Cleveland Arms the following night.

Club legends Peter Karlsson and Mikael Max were set to fly in from Sweden for a special 'Wolves Brothers' show at the Cleveland Arms on Sunday, but have rescheduled for July 19.





## Crunch time for twins in the Big Apple



Twins Zac, left and Owen Evans

TWO world champion kickboxing brothers are aiming to take a bite out of the Big Apple next month.

Twin sensations Owen and Zac Evans, from Cannock, have been given the chance to take on some of the best kickboxers on the planet across the Atlantic.

The 20-year-olds have been invited to an event organised by five-time world champion Bobby Campbell's Jackhammer Promotions in New York on April 14. Owen is scheduled to take on Sean Larkin, while Zac faces Danny Orchard, both WRL world title bouts.

Owen said: "This is a big step up for us and we are really excited about it."

"A lot of the Americans don't really rate European fighters that much. This is our chance to go over there and prove them wrong. It's a big challenge for us."

### Guidance

The twins are trained at Adrenaline Gym, Brownhills by Chris Bladon.

Owen, a five-time British champion in the K-1 division, possesses a European title belt and is currently ranked the No.1 fighter in the UK at 65kg, while Zac is a seven-time world champion and remains unbeaten through 25 fights.

The only issue remaining is finding the money to make the trip. Owen and Zac fit gym work around training as a plumber and electrician respectively.

Mother Alison has set up a JustGiving page to help fund the cost of the trip, estimated to be around £600 each. She said: "This isn't the kind of trip you can afford to make on an apprentice wage and we don't want them to miss out."

Visit justgiving.com/crowdfunding/alison-evans-1

## Alice lands Euro slot

A WALSALL judoka has been selected for the European Championships in Tel Aviv, Israel, from April 26-28.

Alice Schlesinger has been selected at under-63kg and is currently ranked World No.7 at that weight. Also selected is Wolverhampton's Gemma Howell.

## Webb makes waves with 10 medals



Broadway's Swimming Squad

BROADWAY Swimming Club's Blake Webb stole the show at the Staffordshire Championships, coming home with 10 medals.

All the youngster's winning swims at Stafford Leisure Centre came in different strokes.

Competing in the 11 year category, he took gold medals in the 50m, 100m and 200m freestyle, 100m individual medley and 100m butterfly – in which he gained a Midland qualifying time – as well as silvers for the 100m breaststroke, 100m backstroke, 200m individual medley and 400m freestyle. He added bronze in the 50m breaststroke.

Broadway's head coach Alan Bagnall

said: "At these championships you're lucky to get one medal let alone 10. What a great achievement it was."

Fellow Broadway swimmer Amy Perfit picked up a medal in the 16 years and over 50m freestyle. She also managed to gain herself a district qualifying time.

Other swimmers achieving their personal best times, but not quite picking up a medal on the day were Megan Butler, Elodie Rollins, Jenson Proctor, Ewan Dalzell, Matthias Henry and Adin Kamangra. Broadway's boys finished in third out of 17 teams overall.

To join the team contact head coach Bagnall on 01922 409760 or see broadwayswimming.co.uk



Blake Webb

## Club stalwart death rocks community

TRIBUTES have been paid following the death of Walsall Wood FC stalwart Bill Shaw.

Bill, a club ambassador, who among other roles supplied match reports to the local Press, died on Sunday, shocking club staff and the wider community.

The club has set up a donations box at the club bar in memory of Bill.

In a statement issued on behalf of the club, president Andy Roper said: "We are all deeply saddened and shocked to hear of Bill's unexpected passing and our heartfelt sympathies go out to his wife Lynn and the family."

"Bill was a 'one-off' character, extremely clever, articulate and detailed in his match-day reporting."

"He was a decent goalkeeper in his day with the Boys Brigade of Walsall Wood. He spent around 12 years with Walsall Wood FC and also plied his trade for many years at our footballing neighbours Pelsall Villa FC. Both clubs were held very close to his and Lynn's heart."

Lynn helped out in the kitchen on matchdays. Despite moving to Leicestershire a few years ago, the dedicated pair were still regulars at Oak Park.

Andy added: "In honour of Bill's services to the club, last year he was recognised by the directors by having his name put on a board put behind the 'Pithead end' goal which is now known as the Shaw End. We will all miss him dearly and we appreciate what he and Lynn have done over the years."

Andy said social media comments had endorsed the positive impact Bill had around the non-league scene and the high esteem in which he was held.

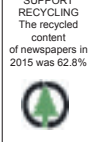
## Rugby club founder dies at age of 93

ONE of the founding fathers of Willenhall Rugby Club has died at the age of 93. Bill Simkin was president for 27 years.

He first became involved with the club in 1966 when he sold them a piece of land in Essington to play on. That land on Bognop Road is still Willenhall's home.

His grandson Will is club president and the clubhouse lounge is known as the Simkin Lounge in his memory.

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# OZ TREBLE BUT DEFENCE IS KEY

ERHUN Oztumer may have taken the plaudits with a hat-trick, but Walsall boss Jon Whitney heaped praise on his defenders after a fifth clean sheet of the season.

Talisman Oztumer notched a treble as Saddlers swept aside an in-form Southend side 3-0 at Roots Hall on Saturday.

Days earlier, Whitney had been vocal in his criticism of his team's defensive performance at Peterborough – with individual errors helping Posh to victory. But before the trip to Essex, he predicted his team would start picking up more clean sheets. And they backed it up on Saturday, with Luke Leahy, Jon Guthrie, Kory Roberts and Nicky Devlin all impressing in a resolute display.

### Crucial

"We had been giving away too many cheap goals but I thought the back four were really good at Southend," Whitney said. "We have worked a lot on the training ground to stop crosses getting into our box."

"And that was crucial on Saturday because Southend had players who are capable of putting in some dangerous deliveries."

"Southend created very little. In the second half we restricted them to next to nothing and that is very pleasing. As a manager, getting clean sheets is what I love."

"To win 3-0 was great but I would have taken a one-nil. It was Erhun's first career hat-trick. But overall it was a great team performance."

It was a performance that rewarded the 119 travelling Saddlers fans. The Shrimpers had been



Walsall's hat-trick hero Erhun Oztumer celebrates at Roots Hall

unbeaten since Chris Powell replaced the sacked Phil Brown as boss.

And with Saddlers having enjoyed just three away victories all season, Southend saw this as a banker to reignite their play-off hopes. But while it was admirable that dozens of fans turned up before kick-off to clear the pitch of snow, in doing so they wrote Jon Whitney's team talk for him.

As the first half wore on, Saddlers took control with Julien Ngoy and Kieron Morris both having

sights of goal. Walsall did survive a scare just moments after the interval when former Banks's favourite Jason Demetriou whipped in a dangerous cross, but Shayon Harrison blazed over.

And Oztumer went on to punish the home side.

At 2-0 down, Southend threw everything at Walsall to get back into the game. But they could not get past the outstanding Saddlers defence, providing the platform for Oztumer to then go and grab his third.



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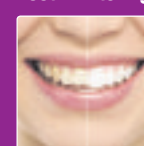
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